



Foreword By:
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FIRE FOR CONSISTENCY

A comprehensive, balanced and practical guide
to a life of spiritual consistency

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPRECIATION.

FOREWORD.

DEDICATION.

GOAL OF THE BOOK.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

PART I

1. THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY.
2. BACK TO THE BASICS.
3. KNOWING.
4. RECKONING.
5. CONSECRATION.

PART II

INTRODUCTION.

1. DISCIPLINE.
2. THE ENVIRONMENT RULE.
3. BURDENS AND ZEAL.
4. THE HEART FACTOR.
5. SENSITIVITY TO SEASONS.
6. STANDING STRONG ALONE !.

7. INTENTIONAL TOWARDS GOALS
AND POSITIVE CONFESSIONS.
8. DEAD MEN MUST ARISE.
9. A CHARGE TO BE CONSISTENT!

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APPRECIATION

First before any other, my appreciation goes to the Holy Trinity; The Father, Jesus the Son my Lord, and the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit it is who inspired me to write this book by bringing it as a burden, and even when I delayed writing it for about two years, he still kept that burden on me till this book came into fruition. I remember when I was about writing, I didn't even know what was supposed to be in the book, but the Holy Spirit made me know that as I began to write, he would inspire me on what to write, and even bring me personally into full Spiritual consistency through it. Thank you Holy Spirit. I should not be co-authoring this book with you, but for your mercies.

Then, in no particular order are the following persons;

Kenneth. E. Hagin, Watchman Nee, Roberts Liardon, Apostle Joshua Selman, Apostle Arome Osayi, Apostle Michael Orokpo, Evangelist Peter Okonkwo (my Father), Evangelist Gibson Eze, Evangelist Okechukwu Ugwumadu, Mr. James Andrew, Evangelist Michael Igomu, Evangelist Michael Oche, My Family, Kingsley, Michael, Queen, Faith, Emmanuel, Sylvia, Ifeyinwa, Loveth, Anastasia, Chidimma Ezeatuegwu, Paul Olamide, Ajao Bisola, Sunday Chiamaka Mercy, Mrs. Juliana Okebalama, the Agada family, Mr. Paul Okolie, Mr. Vincent Adesugba, the CCRN of St. Charles Iwanga, agege (Jesus the rock of Ages community) and her youth wing, FIRE FOR CONSISTENCY intercessors and publicity teams, Mr. Uche Onwuchekwa, Mr. Francis Onwuzurike, Abah Jerome, Mary Adah, Sule James, and every other person not mentioned for want of space, thanks to you all for your essential presence and contribution to my life.

FOREWORD

I count it a privilege to foreword this book. Stanley Okolie is an individual I have come to so much love, he is one in whom I sense a deep-seated love for God and the kingdom. I was delighted when he informed me of the completion of this book.

In my expertise as a " Habit change and Purpose living coach " and as a minister of the Gospel of Christ, I can say without mincing words that the book " FIRE FOR CONSISTENCY " is very relevant towards maintaining a life of Spiritual Consistency for a Christian in today's world.

The book is such that deals with the subject of Spiritual Consistency from the very foundational basis of the effects of our Salvation to the higher and weightier levels of a life lived in total submission to God. This book is a balanced, practical and comprehensive guide indeed. Much more, it is packaged with prayers which would spur the fire for Consistency in you.

As you read this book, I urge you to follow it's instructions with all dilligence which would ensure that you eat the fruit of this book, which is that Spiritual Consistency is attained in your Spiritual walk. Remain blessed.

Peter Praise Okonkwo.

(Habit Change Coach ~ Evangelist)

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the following group of people;

* To my second family (the Drunk company) and every believer crying for revival, our cry for revival in our generation will certainly find expression in due time.

* To every believer struggling unsuccessfully to break off certain unpleasant addictions, I have been there, I understand your plight, I once had an addiction that lasted about 10 years of struggle to break until my deliverance came. This book was written with you in mind. Finally, your deliverance has come.

* To every believer struggling to be consistent in their relationship with God. If you will study this book dilligently, then your help has come.

* To every youth in the body of Christ, the Revival rests upon our shoulders. Let us travail, till Revival fire invades us.

GOAL OF THE BOOK

The goal of this book is to aid believers, especially young believers come into the experiential dimension of Spiritual consistency;

*In living a life of purity/holiness.

*In prayer and fasting.

* In the study of the word of God.

*In maintaining an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

*In living a purpose driven life.

Also to cause the Spiritually dead to be revived to life, the lukewarm to BURN FOR GOD, and the burning to become an INFERNO ; to the end that we all arise and take our place among the Army of God of which none shall break their rank, as we host the greatest of Revivals to invade the Earth. " TILL THY KINGDOM COMES " .

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In our desire to be used of God for great works, it is greatly required of us that we sustain a level of spiritual consistency, without which we cannot be greatly used of God. A lot has been said on the need for consistency, but very little has been taught on HOW TO attain to spiritual consistency. While sourcing for materials to write this book, I came to find out that there is currently no comprehensive book available on the internet which specifically handles the topic of spiritual consistency with balance. This came as a surprise to me being that spiritual consistency is one of the most important things for a believer, how is it then that no book is available on the internet which wholly addresses this topic, thus I had some trouble writing the book as I had to source for relevant information from so many sources (books, messages, group discussions, scripture study, asking questions, to mention a few). Thank God nevertheless for the success of it's completion.

This book is designed in a manner of which when dilligently followed grants unto the believer a balanced understanding of the topic of spiritual consistency, as well as providing the believer with the requisite fire necessary to be spiritually consistent.

This book is divided into two Parts; the part one gives an understanding of the inner workings of our salvation in bringing us spiritual consistency. The part two teaches on the aspect of the believers effort coupled with the aid of the Holy Spirit to ensure spiritual consistency. From part one to two, the chapters are arranged in such an order that requires them to be followed accordingly to maximize ones results, skipping some chapters or not beginning from the first chapters might cause the believer to have an imbalance on the topic of spiritual consistency, thus following

it's order is necessary.

This book, is more of a guide than just an ordinary book, therefore dilligence in study is required to maximize results. As you begin to study, I entrust you into the hands of the Holy Spirit as he guides you into spiritual consistency.

FOR EFFECTIVE RESULTS

- 1) Take a 14 day plan, read one Chapter of the book per day, and pray the prayer points wholeheartedly. Read the same Chapter again and again with full concentration till it penetrates your Spirit and pray the prayer points till you break forth. If it takes 5 mins for you to break forth fine, if it takes 2 hours fine, just be sure that you break forth.
- 2) Play an underground worship or spiritual sounds in a low tone using an earpiece, airpod or headphone while reading the book. This will help to create an enabling spiritual atmosphere around you thus keeping you from being distracted by your physical environment.
- 3) Engage a 14 day fast to aid you be better spiritually disposed. Try not to break earlier than 12noon. It is more preferable if you fast till 6pm or beyond, depending on your capacity.

PART I

FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL CONSISTENCY

CHAPTER ONE

THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY

According to a statistics on world population by Wikipedia as at 2020, world population was estimated to stand at 7.79 billion, 29% (2.4 billion) of which are Christians, and 29% is no small proportion as this is the largest of them all, Islam is set at 24%, Hinduism 15.4%, Atheists 14.1%, Buddhism 6%, and every other following in smaller proportions, some as small as 0.03%. So, relatively Christianity has a significantly big population world over, and if we are to check by a few Nation's specific percentage, 65% of US population as at 2019 were Christians, 46.6% in Russia as at 2012, about 86% in Brazil as at 2010, and 49% in Nigeria as at 2019. Indeed, it is safe to say a huge proportion of the world's population are Christians. This makes one wonder ; how is it that with our large population we seem to be so ineffective in propagating the agenda of God and in causing tangible national and global impacts for the kingdom of God ?.

We carry a gospel that is so powerful but we seem so powerless, the world today doesn't look like one where Christians are dominating, but one where the systems of darkness have taken over. We come into the Christian-fold and begin to check and you can observe that we seem to be ever fixated at one point of our walk with God, we never seem to move forward. We seem to preach about things that we cannot do.

" And when the Holy Ghost comes upon you, you shall be filled with POWER! ", says the Preacher, but demonstrating the same power seems to be the issue, and most times what we term to be the power of God is only in bringing people down under the anointing ; is that all there is to the power of God ? Or is it the question that the Christianity practiced in

scriptures by the Apostles is one which is different from our Christianity ?
Why does ours seem to be different ?.

Why is it that we give our lives to Christ, yet find it so hard to give up some things associated with this life ? That we still find ourselves entangled in addictions. I thought that loving God is enough to bring us out of these vices. How is it that of a truth I love God so much, yet I can offend him so much ? How is it that I detest and so much hate and have serious contempt for sexual immorality, yet every now and then my data subscription has to be renewed, not because I make use of it reasonably, but because pornography eats at it, and I yearn always to connect to a Wi-Fi network, just to satisfy the lust in me that I find hard to control ?

How is it that the things I don't want to do I find myself doing, but that which I want to do I CANNOT DO ? Why do I find it hard to study my Bible, yet I am the best medical student in my Faculty (mind you, I studied a whole lot to achieve that).

Why does prayer seem so hard; why do I agree to pray, but when it is time I keep procrastinating till I never pray ?.

Why do I see that "...You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall be healed ", yet I pretend not to remember this when those around me are sick, moreover the day I mustered enough courage to try that I ended up sick ? Why does the word say " I will never complain of being sick ", but I have fallen sick eight times already this year, is scripture lying ?.....

Many a times, we find ourselves in this dilemma and we seem confused as to the way out. The undeniable truth here is that there is a dire need for consistency. Lack of consistency is the reason we seem stuck in whatever addictions, it is why the Scriptures seem too voluminous and uninteresting to study, it is the reason Prayer seems so hard like a mission impossible, it is the reason Scriptures seem to lie with respect to it's

promises, it's the reason we are UP today, DOWN tomorrow, ON FIRE today, QUENCHED tomorrow. It is why we seem so stagnated in our walk with God, it is why great Men never rise.

We must understand that Consistency is an underlying principle for any and every aspect of Life; Business, Education, Marriage, Government, e.t.c. If a student be not Consistent in studies, then the hope of having an excellent result is in vain. If a business man does not Consistently apply the right business principles, he will not make tangible consistent profits. If a Government be not Consistent in her policies and sovereignty, her Nation's safety is threatened.

Consistency is a general rule. We observe in scriptures how that the Apostles were Consistent in practising all they did, they didn't fail in Fellowship Prayers and the Word, in breaking the bread, e.t.c.

Consistency is the ability to be continuous in carrying out an action. It involves being steadfast, doing such from time to time without fail. God makes use of Consistent Men, no matter how much we love God, he won't accredit us for tangible use till Consistency is established in us, which is why he told Joshua *"....that you shall study it day and Night and make sure to observe everything written in it. THEN will you be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8)*. Notice that God attached his prosperity and success to when he consistently studied and obeyed the words of Scripture.

Spiritual consistency has to do with being consistent in our Prayer life, Word study and application, living a life of Purity and in living out our life's Purpose. If our lives must count before God, there is a serious need for Consistency in our walk with God. Then will we be useful to God and the kingdom. Remember that our Original purpose for being created was not to go to heaven, but to dominate the Earth, to institute God's kingdom here on Earth, when he said to Adam *"....Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the Earth*

and subdue it; AND HAVE DOMINION...." (Gen 1:28). The same Mandate still lies on us, and the underlying factor for this, is CONSISTENCY.

THE PATHWAY TO CONSISTENCY

In attaining Consistency, we seem to be at a loss on how to go about it. A fact is that many believers want to be consistent in their walk with God, but they keep finding themselves going up and down. At the beginning of a new year, most believers make resolutions such as ;

- * Get close to God.
- * Finish the Bible from Genesis to revelation.
- * Pray at least an hour daily.
- * Walk in Holiness.....

And the list goes on, however, by the end of the year, they realize that they almost did not achieve even 30% of the resolutions or goals set. What most believers do not understand is that Consistency is not instant or just happens, it isn't something you just wish or desire or only PRAY to happen.

There are definite principles to being Consistent in our walk with God. Every believer who is Consistent, every believer who God mightily makes use of (publicly or privately) operates many, if not all of these principles of Consistency, whether they know it or not. Consistency doesn't just happen, you work towards it by keeping it's principles.

We will examine these principles one after the other in order to understand and come into an experiential dimension of Consistency.

(Note that the principles contained in this book are not exhaustive in

themselves, but quite adequate to aid you walk in spiritual consistency).

Let us Pray;

- Father, help my commitment to studying and keeping the principles in this book.

- Father, spark up unusual hunger for Spiritual consistency in me.

- Father, help me to be spiritually consistent.

- At the end of this 14 days journey, let me begin to see tangible spiritual consistency in my life Lord.

CHAPTER TWO

BACK TO THE BASICS.

Before we delve into the various principles that guide one's consistent walk with God, there is an understanding we must have, which must be a foundation upon which these principles are built, for if our foundation be weak then we are setting ourselves to crash on the long run.

Have you ever been at the point at which you keep falling into Sin, and truly you hate doing that with the whole of your heart, but still you just cannot quit it. You find yourself addicted to sexual immorality of any form at all, to drinking, have serious anger fits, or whatever that has become such an addiction which you hate so much, but no matter how much you hate it, still you find yourself doing it occasionally, hmmm.

" We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am a creature of the flesh [carnal, unspiritual], having been sold into slavery under [the control of] sin.

I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled, bewildered]. I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]. Now if I do [habitually] what is contrary to my desire, [that means that] I acknowledge and agree that the Law is good (morally excellent) and that I take sides with it. However, it is no longer I who do the deed, but the sin [principle] which is at home in me and has possession of me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] For I fail to practice the good deeds I desire to do, but the evil deeds that I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing. Now if I do what I do not desire to do, it is no longer I doing it [it is not myself that acts], but the sin

[principle] which dwells within me [fixed and operating in my soul]. So I find it to be a law (rule of action of my being) that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands. For I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]. But I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh] a different law (rule of action) at war against the law of my mind (my reason) and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh]. O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death? " (Romans 7:14-24 AMP).

These are words spoken by St. Paul, at one point in his walk with God he found himself in the same dilemma that most of us find ourselves in, hating so much something, and yet you keep doing it, and that which you want to do you cannot do. This is an issue that needs to be settled once and for all if we are to be consistent in our walk with God. I know this experientially;

For many years I was striving for consistency in my walk with God, and I began to hit consistency, I was consistent to a degree in every other aspect of my walk with God ; my prayer life, scripture study, fasting, I was disciplined at least enough to keep me going, but when it came to my walk in Holiness I was stuck, I couldn't go beyond the craving of my flesh. Even with all my prayer and word study and fasting, I kept crashing to the ground, because what I didn't want to do I found myself doing occasionally. I knew I was hurting the Holy Spirit and that made me so angry at myself but I couldn't help it, each time that Sin principle in my Flesh began to make demands I couldn't just resist, at such moments God didn't make sense to me, even the thought of being condemned to hell didn't move me a bit, all I

wanted to do was just to satisfy that craving, the only voice so audible I could hear in my mind was the voice of that Sin principle urging me strongly to yield, and eventually I would, (did I hear you say " Rebuke the Devil and he would flee from you ? ", Oh how that I rebuked countless times, but all to no avail, it isn't just rebuking the Devil that makes him flee, but the standpoint of LIGHT through which you carry out that rebuke that makes the Devil flee), then I would cry to God but again later on I would yield to that Sin principle and the cycle of Sin continued for years, I was so helpless, I felt caged in my own body, I know exactly what St. Paul was talking about in that scripture above, mind you I was already a minister of the gospel and I ministered powerfully, but I was stuck. At one point I thought I had dealt fully with it because it subsided for a few months but then it came again so strongly, I would be depressed not knowing what to do. I tried all I knew to do; I fasted so much, prayed and cried my heart out, applied discipline, tried psychology, but all to no avail, at a point I decided to give myself a period of time to deal finally with it, I resolved to myself that if this Dominion of Sin over me cannot be ended then I would quit everything ministry. I know what this is ooo, I know it, and these things I intend to teach in this book are the very things God taught me over a long period of time which eventually brought me total emancipation, this is why I said earlier that this is a foundational issue that must be dealt with once and for all, if not, every other thing done in one's pursuit of consistency on the long run will fail. You might not fully comprehend how serious what I am saying is, but for those of you who have a CHRONIC ADDICTION to any particular Sin like I had, you will understand fully what I mean. This issue of FLESH must be settled once and for all.

When Christ came to die for us, he gave us a way out of the dominion of Sin in our lives. Two out of the many things that the death of Christ did for us is that it granted us the forgiveness of our sins and broke the power of sin over us. We need to understand that there are two dimensions to Sin

which are " The acts of Sin " and " the Nature (power, principle, law) of Sin ". The acts of Sin refer to the very sins we commit, while the nature of Sin refers to that nature, that corruption in us that causes us to desire the acts of sin even if we don't want to like St. Paul spoke of in the scripture above. What do we think scripture meant when it said in Romans 3:23 and 5:12 that all have sinned ? It wasn't referring to the acts of Sin because even a newly born baby who has not done anything at all is included in that phrase " ALL have sinned ", so it definitely was not referring to the acts of Sin, it was referring to the Nature of Sin which every human received from Adam (Romans 5:12-14, 17-19).

So the Blood of Jesus it is that cleanses us of our sins, that is, the acts of Sin (Romans 3:25-26, 1 John 1:7), but it is the place of the Cross and our Baptism that sets us free from the power of Sin. As was seen in the scripture above from Romans 7, there is a power/law/nature/principle of Sin at work in us, which causes us to do what we do not want to do, this is why although you have been forgiven of your sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, yet you find yourself occasionally delve into that very same Sin which you detest with all your heart, it is because of that power of Sin over you. The power of sin in our lives is not taken care of by the blood of Jesus Christ, what the blood does is to cleanse us of our sins. The very sin nature itself, that very power of sin over our lives, causing us to sin even when we detest it with all our heart, that sin Nature is taken care of by the Cross and Our Baptism.

" 1) What shall we say [to all this]? Are we to remain in sin in order that God's grace (favor and mercy) may multiply and overflow? 2) Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? 3) Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4) We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the

dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. 5) For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God]. 6) We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin. 7) For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men]. 8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9) Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him. 10) For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. 11) Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. 12) Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions. 13) Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [and faculties] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to [perpetual] life, and your bodily members [and faculties] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness. 14) For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God's favor and mercy]. " (Romans 6:1-14 AMP)

Wow, that's a lot of scripture there, but really it is necessary if we are to deal with this issue once and for all, just follow me closely and with all diligence as we trust the Holy Spirit to grant us light into this mystery enough to bring us deliverance, alleluia.

Based on the scripture above and the issue we are set to resolve, we will be subsuming into three sections;

- 1) Knowing.
- 2) Reckoning.
- 3) Consecration.

Let Us Pray;

- Father, thank you for the entrance of thy word gives light and understanding to the simple.

- Lord, open thou the eyes of my understanding that I may see your light which is able to deliver me.

CHAPTER THREE

KNOWING (REVELATION)

" KNOWING THIS, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that henceforth we should no longer be the slaves of sin. " (Romans 6:6 NKJV).

We begin by taking a look at the scripture above, take note of the highlighted words, it says " KNOWING THIS", that tells us that there is something to know, that is, there is something to pay close attention to in order to come into the comprehension of it, and what is it that we are to know, it is that " Our Old man was crucified with Christ, in order that the body of sin might be done away with, that henceforth we should no longer be the slaves of Sin". Wow. This scripture says it all, this is the scripture that tells us verbatim that we should not be under the Dominion of Sin any longer, this is what we are enjoined to know, that our Flesh has been crucified, that is, it has been given unto death on the Cross, and because of that we should no longer be subject to the Dominion of Sin over our lives, the Power of Sin has been broken over us. Majority of the deliverance we need is that which comes from the understanding of the word of God, much more than deliverance from Demons. Prayer is very powerful for a believer and indeed the most primary indicator for one's spiritual growth, but the effectiveness of prayer is underutilized if the place of understanding of the word of God that should be applied in prayer is lacking. See, I know this experientially ooo, I could pray for as much as 15 hours in tongues yet I was seriously struggling with addiction, my prayer power couldn't break the addiction because there was an understanding which was lacking in me, not even the many deliverance sections I had

undergone, both personally and through other ministers of God, they couldn't break me out of it because it wasn't a prayer issue, it was first an understanding issue.

The Power of Sin already has been broken over us, only that we are ignorant of this understanding. But it doesn't end in just knowing this truth, we have to first understand how this came to be.

In the previous Chapter I mentioned that the Blood of Jesus Christ washes away our sins, but it is the Cross and our Baptism that dealt with the Dominion of Sin over our life. Already we know how that Jesus Christ died on the Cross and resurrected in order to bring us Salvation, now the thing is that as believers in Christ, we partake of his death on the Cross and his resurrection and this happens through our Baptism.

" 1) What shall we say [to all this]? Are we to remain in sin in order that God's grace (favor and mercy) may multiply and overflow? 2) Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? 3) Are you ignorant of the fact that ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH ? 4) We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. 5) For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God]. 6) We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin. 7) For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men]. 8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9) Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over

Him. 10) For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. " (Romans 6:1-10 AMP).

All my life I never knew that the issue of the dominion of Sin over my life had already been settled, which is why when I was in the crisis of Sin I kept fasting and praying for Deliverance whereas it was something which was already settled from the very day I got baptized as a Christian. I had always known that Baptism was essential, but I didn't know it covered this much for a believer. In the passage above, St. Paul was speaking to the Roman Church and in verse two we see him say " WE WHO DIED TO SIN", in other words every baptized believer in Christ has scripturally died to Sin whether it is that believer's experience or not. (Aware of the fact that while Baptism is very essential, not every believer is yet baptized, so is the question " How does a believer who is not baptized yet partake of this truth ? The answer is in Revelations 13:8 "...*From the foundation of the Earth the lamb was slain* ", this gives us an idea that even before the creation of the World Jesus had already died on the Cross, this is the Spiritual dimension to it, so someone in old testament times could actually enter into Salvation with the sufficient understanding of this truth, how did David eat the bread of the Temple and not die, he tapped into the dimension of Grace which was not a manifest reality in old testament times. So, for Baptism, a believer who is yet to be baptized can through Faith, tap into it's dividends WHILE preparing to be Baptized as soon as is possible).

He even went further to tell us how this happened and the manner with which he spoke in verse three makes us know that he expected the Roman Christians to already know of this which means that this is a basic truth of our Christian Faith. Majority of Christians today do not know of this basic truth and this is because of the failure on the part of the Teaching ministry of our Churches today.

St. Paul, in telling us how this happened, helped to paint a graphic picture for us, he makes us know that through our Baptism we share in the death of Jesus Christ, were buried with him and resurrected into newness of life all at once (Col 2:12). This sounds unbelievable, but it seems so because we tend to perceive reality with our physical senses. Let me describe for you further. You are a baptized Christian right ? Now this is it, on the day that you were baptized, whether as an infant or an adult, whether you were aware of this truth or not doesn't matter, the fact remains that on that day you were baptized, as the Priest/Pastor dipped you into the water and brought you out in less than 5 minutes and it all seemed so ordinary, this is what happened to you Spiritually; during that very short period Spiritually as you went under water (or as the water was poured on you as is in the case of infant Baptism) you died for real, oh yes you did, you died, how did that happen, as the waters of Baptism came over you, your old self was taken to the Cross and nailed to that very same Cross that Jesus Christ was nailed to (Rom 6:6), your old self kept screaming on that Cross but it couldn't do anything because it was nailed, and it stayed on that Cross with Jesus for 3 long hours as he did, and when Jesus Christ died, your old self also died, as Christ was taken down from the Cross, you were also taken down from the Cross, as he was buried in the tomb, you also were buried and remained there for 3 days with him (Rom 6:4a), when he rose up from the dead on the third day with a new life, you also resurrected with him not with your old self but IN him (Rom 6:4b), in essence the old YOU never did resurrect rather you entered into him and when he resurrected you also resurrected no longer as YOU but as a member of the BODY OF CHRIST (Collosians 3:3-4, Rom 7:4), so you had no life of your own anymore, but rather Christ entrusted his very own life to you and asked you to begin to live his life (Galatians 2:19b-20, 3:27), at that moment then in this Physical realm you were raised out of the water and welcomed into the Family of Christ. ALLELUIA!

All that experience in the realm of the Spirit took three days but in this Physical realm it could have been just 5 mins, that is because the Spiritual realm is not regulated by the laws of this physical world. Now you would agree with me that on that day we all got baptized it seemed so ordinary, but don't be deceived, as believers we walk by Faith not by sight.

This is the truth that St. Paul enjoins us so much in verse 6 of Romans 6 to Know, because when we died with Christ on that Cross, our Body was made inactive and ineffective for Sin to rule over us, Sin lost it's power of dominion over us because we had subscribed to a higher law, a higher power, a higher authority (Rom 8:1-2). No longer are we subject to that craving to Sin, no longer are we subject to that force of the Flesh causing us to yield to Sin, no longer are we slaves to Master Sin, we gave up our servitude on that day of Baptism and Christ became our Master. It is just like in a marriage contract, the couples are bound to each other so long as the other is alive, but based on the clause that says " TILL DEATH DO US PART", that means that when either dies, the other is free to marry someone else (under normal circumstances). So it is here, in this case, it isn't Sin that dies, but we die instead, and become legally separated from the dominion of Sin by the laws of the Spirit, and then we receive a new life from Christ who we then become joined to.(Rom 7:1-4).

So this is the very first part of our attaining to Consistency, we must first come to KNOW this truth of our Faith, and not just knowing it in the head, but meditating over those scriptures in Romans 6 and reading this Chapter again, doing both again and again till this truth becomes life to us and such that we fully comprehend it's essence.

Only after we have come to this KNOWING, can we then proceed to RECKONING.

Let Us Pray;

- Thank you Lord, for in your LIGHT I see LIGHT.
- I come into the comprehension of this truth Oh Lord.
- I declare that through the Cross and my Baptism, I have died with Christ.
- I declare that through the Cross and my Baptism, I was buried with Christ Jesus.
- I declare that through the Cross and my Baptism, I have been raised into newness of life in Christ Jesus.
- I declare that the Dominion of Sin over my life is ended, no longer am I a Slave to Sin.
- I declare that I have died to Sin, and am alive in Christ Jesus who is my master.
- I declare that Sin speaks a Dead language to me, but God speaks my mother tongue, ALLELUIA!

CHAPTER FOUR

RECKONING (FAITH)

" Likewise RECKON YE also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. " (Romans 6:11 KJV)

In our Faith walk, what follows after Knowing is Reckoning. In the scripture above, after that St. Paul had given an exegesis on what we are to Know, he enjoins us to Reckon. The greek word for reckon here is "LOGIZOMAI" which is translated as to " account, count, calculate ", this is a word which is used to refer to real facts not suppositions. Now this gives us a vivid understanding upon close examination. Borrowing from the words of Watchman Nee, the only thing we humans know how to do so well and accurately is to do accounting. If you ask a group of persons to give individual qualitative analysis on the same subject matter, i.e " a description of living experience in a specified city", the response from each person will differ, they might all communicate a certain set of points in essence but definitely you will get different descriptions of the subject matter, as a matter of fact none will EXACTLY (100%) capture the very precise details, this is because the way we view things is affected by our various mindsets and temperaments, some persons might view from a Functionalist perspective, others from a Marxian sense and others yet from an Evolutionary perspective, e.t.c. But if you ask the same set of very smart persons to give a quantitative analysis of a subject matter i.e the approximate population density of a specified city to two decimal place", you are likely to get very exact and 100% correct answers from more than 70% of the participants, this is because Arithmetics cannot be influenced by our personal bias whatsoever, 1+1 is equals to 2 in Nigeria, America,

Indonesia, England, China, Ghana, in any part of the world it remains the same.

Here is a simpler analogy; If I ask you to reckon (LOGIZOMAI) that you have #7,000 in your wallet, it means that that's the exact amount in there, no more no less and I am only asking you to account for that truth. If you were to have #5,000 or #9,000, then you would definitely not be able to reckon that you have #7,000 as that would be a lie, and if indeed what you have is #7,000 then you refuse to reckon it to be so, then you are clearly engaging in self-deception as you're just denying a true fact that is beyond all reasonable doubt.

This is what the word Logizomai refers to in essence. Seeing the explanations given above makes us understand what the Apostle Paul was trying to communicate to the Roman Church when he said " likewise RECKON ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto Sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord ". Certain criteria are drawn from the explanation given above on how to reckon in this context;

* One cannot reckon what is a lie.

* One cannot reckon what is a fable/falsehood.

*One cannot reckon a premonition.

*One cannot reckon based on personal experience, personal bias, personal perspective.

*One cannot reckon through/based on a psychological frame of mind.

*One can only reckon what is a standard, definite and universal truth i.e $1+1=2$.

*It would be a self-deception not to accept as true what is reckoned to be truth i.e trying to argue that $1+1$ does not arithmetically result as 2 is

nothing short of a clear self-deception.

Wow, that's a lot up there, but don't rush, let it sink in, you could as well help yourself with a glass of chilled water....Ok, back to our teaching:

Going by the criteria given above, we understand that when St. Paul asked that we Reckon something, he wasn't asking that we accept what is a lie or a fable, a mere premonition or a personal bias or perspective of his, he wasn't asking us to psyche ourselves into believing that such is true, rather he was asking us to account for what is a universal truth anywhere in the Spiritual universe, and our refusal to do this would only mean that we are deceiving ourselves, in other words, not believing or accepting as true what we are requested of to reckon in Romans 6:11 only means that we are engaging in self-deception because we deny what is a standard truth.

FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE

Reckoning involves two aspects;

*First, we must reckon ourselves as Dead unto Sin. This means that the only universally valid argument in this context is the fact that every believer who has accepted Jesus and is baptized has died to Sin, whether this is a manifest reality or not in one's life will not change this truth. The waters of baptism made way for our death and crucifixion with Christ on his Cross, this is a truth that is universally established in the Spirit world, our doubting this truth would be tantamount to a self-deception. This is no Christian psychology, it is just plain truth from the standpoint of the word of God.

*Secondly, we must reckon ourselves to be alive unto God. This means that every believer who has genuinely accepted Jesus Christ and is baptized is not only dead to Sin, but also alive unto God, this is the universally valid

argument in this context whether this is a manifest reality in our lives or not. Refusing to believe this truth is tantamount to self-deception.

It is crucial that we understand that these truths spoken of above refer to the prophetic position of every saved and baptized believer in the sight of God. The thing we must understand about seeing from God's standpoint is that God is a Spirit and he sees things as they are in the Spirit not as they are in this Earth realm, i.e while we may cry and seek God for certain blessings to come into fruition in our lives, the way God sees it is that we already have those blessings; scriptures say that God has blessed us with every blessing (1Cor 1:5, Eph 1:3), however the protocol for the manifestation of such blessings must be followed, this is called " The mystery of the Word made Flesh". So from God's point of view, we already have that blessing, but for it to be made physically manifest, there are things we must do. So it is in this case, from God's standpoint every baptized believer is dead to Sin and alive to God, however this fails to be the case in the lives of many (especially) young believers today. And the burden upon us is to bring this standard truth into manifest reality in our Christian walk.

THE SECRET OF RECKONING

One fact we cannot fail to mention, is that the secret of reckoning is not merely positive confession. Haven't you realized that you can confess " I am dead to Sin, I am dead to Sin, I am dead to Sin !", but a few minutes later you find yourself in sexual immorality.

The Secret of reckoning is hidden in revelation. This is why the order as listed in Chapter two is KNOWING => RECKONING => CONSECRATION. Unless you first Know you cannot Reckon, and until you Reckon you cannot

present yourself. You cannot alter the process and expect to achieve tangible result, it is patterned so for a reason.

For you to reckon well enough, you must come to know and understand fully the truth that you have died and have been brought to life in Christ. This goes beyond just studying the previous chapter or Romans 6 once, no, you will have to meditate on it again and again till this truth penetrates your bones and marrow and enters your Spirit, and this will require times of conscious and dilligent meditation. This truth I teach about took me at least four months to fully grasp before it became grounded in my Spirit, I cannot count how many times I had to re-read Watchman Nee's book " NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE " as well as the uncountable number of times I studied Romans 6 before this truth completely opened up and fully entered my Spirit man. This is why I will encourage you to go back to the previous Chapter and study sincerely and very dilligently as well as Romans 6 till this truth breaks forth into your Spirit.

We do not just try to reckon, no, rather what we do is that because we have come to fully understand what Christ has done for us, how and when exactly we come to be dead and therefore alive unto God, having a very vivid understanding of this truth, therefore we are left with no logical choice than to reckon that which is nothing short of the truth; that we have Died to Sin and made alive unto our God, ALLELUIA!

THE PLACE OF FAITH IN RECKONING

We cannot discuss the subject of reckoning without discussing Faith. This is because when we reckon on Spiritual realities, we accept to be true facts that cannot be subject to scientific experimentation. Faith is the anchor that allows us connect to and interact with Spiritual realities.

" Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen " (Hebrews 11:1 KJV)

As far as I know, this is the only definition for faith given anywhere in the scriptures, it is crucial then that we understand this well enough. This translation says, faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, this gives us an idea of Faith being the physical form of that which we hope for. Let's take a look at another much clearer version of the same Bible text.

" Now faith is the SUBSTANTIATING of things hoped for..." (New translation of J.N Darby).

This gives us a much clearer understanding, it says faith is the SUBSTANTIATING of things hoped for. The highlighted word refers to giving material form to a thing, so when it says faith is the substantiating of things hoped for, what it means is that Faith is the spiritual element which gives material form to that which we hope for, that is, it no longer is something hoped for, it now becomes a reality that we can see and interact with as it now takes a real form, so in essence, faith permits us to interact with the substance of a reality that otherwise had no substance. In the topic of reckoning, faith substantiates and makes real for us the truth that we are dead to Sin and alive to God, with our human senses we fail to perceive this truth, but through the eyes of Faith it becomes a substantial reality.

This is better explained with this analogy; Colours are real, oh yes we all know that, we have such colours as black, blue, red, grey, e.t.c, and to you they are so because you can see them, but to a man born blind there is nothing as such as colours. I once watched a popular music producer on T.V a long time ago, Cohbams asuquo, he was born blind and when he was asked a question with respect to his sight during the interview he said (I paraphrase) " People tell me that because I am blind what I can see is only

colour black, but the truth is that for someone like me there are no colours ", how was he supposed to know black when he hasn't seen other Colours ? So for a Man born blind colours are not real, but whether he agrees with this fact or not, whether he can see them or not will not change the fact that colours are real, only he cannot see them because he lacks adequate functioning of the faculty that should make them a reality to him. The same goes for sound, our ears are the faculty that allow sound to become a reality to us, if we were to be born without ears or born deaf, we will not know what sound is, even though it is real, we lack the faculty that would have permitted us to appreciate it's reality. The same goes for reckoning of Spiritual realities and faith. Spiritual truths remain true, whether we believe them or not, whether we can access them or not, they are eternal truths stored up in the archives of the Spirit world. For us to access truths such as our being dead to Sin and alive to God, there is no physical faculty that can do so, our eyes, ears, mouth, skin, all these can't because only what is Spirit can perceive Spiritual. Faith is the foremost spiritual infrastructure wired into a believer to permit us see into and appreciate the realm of the Spirit, and therefore perceive as real and true the established eternal truths in God's kingdom. Except through the eyes of Faith, we cannot perceive as real these truths of our being dead to Sin and alive unto God. No wonder Romans 1:17 records that our Christian walk is based entirely on faith, from start to finish.

This it is that settles the matter of temptations arising after that we have come to know and reckon these truth. These are spiritually perceived truths, and we must understand we are essentially Spiritual beings living in a bodily vessel. The fact that we are contained in a vessel of flesh is reason enough to cause temptations to arise occasionally. In understanding the truth of our death to Sin, it is crucial to note that Sin did not die, we instead died to Sin, no longer it's servants, what has been broken over us is the dominion of Sin in our lives, this means that Sin is still very much alive but

no longer has that authority it used to have upon us by which it forced us to do it's evil biddings, now we have a choice to make everytime we are faced with temptations, either to agree with the physical deception of the Devil telling us that we are not dead to Sin since our flesh can still respond to desires to Sin, or we shut up that desire and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit telling us the eternal truth that we have died to Sin and now alive to God and therefore are not to submit to Sin. The difference now is that before we didn't have much of a choice, Sin crippled us and forced us to lust, to steal, and whatever else it's biddings are, but now, after Knowing what we know and reckoning, even if the temptations arise, the simple truth is that Sin can no longer force us because it doesn't possess that power anymore, now I can choose whether to obey it's cravings to sin or not and of course I choose not to, and that is exactly what I do .

Permit me to emphasize this fact that reckoning doesn't mean the former cravings and desires automatically cease, no, they keep coming, maybe even more, and you might begin to feel " Oh this Reckoning of a thing is just a lie ", no it isn't. Understand that before, you were trying to fight those cravings without being fully equipped, but now you are aware of what Salvation did to you, your death and life in Christ, as a result, you now know that Sin cannot force you to obey it anylonger, you now have a choice. So, when the cravings come, it is then time to fight it with the understanding you now possess, coupled with prayer and other principles that will be discussed much later in this book. You don't allow the lie of the devil get to you. Even if after Knowing all these you still fall into sin, you don't remain there, you rise up immediately, dust yourself and keep on the good fight of Faith.

RECKONING IN CHRIST

As we reckon, we must also realize that we are never to reckon on ourselves, no we reckon in Christ. Apart from Christ, you will realize that your flesh is very much alive, this is because as was said above, Sin never died, what actually happened is that we died to Sin instead and this came about because we subscribed to a higher law called the " Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" which rescued us from the Law of Sin and death (Rom 8:1-2).

Take for instance; there is a law operational on the Earth realm which affects everything that exists on this Earth called the law of gravity. When you throw an object up into the air you see it reaches a high and then falls back to the ground, this is because of the law of gravity which it is responding to, however, Aircrafts are designed in such a way that by subscribing to a different set of laws called the Laws of aerodynamics they are able to overcome the force of gravity and stay on air for longer periods of time, now note that an aircraft didn't defeat per say the law of gravity, all it did was to subscribe to a higher law which allowed it rise above the pull of gravity, now the aircraft is not above the law of gravity by itself, it is able to overcome gravity by depending entirely on the law of aerodynamics, suffice it to say the airplane is reckoning on the life supplied it by the law of aerodynamics, now the aircraft could begin to feel on top of the world because it has overcome gravity and then try to reckon/depend on itself without the aid of the law of aerodynamics (maybe by disengaging it's engines while on air), the very moment it does this is the moment it will begin to fall and submit to the law of gravity till it results into a terrible plane crash. In the same way, our reckoning is in Christ, we are never to reckon on our selves, the day we do so is when we will realize that Sin is still so much powerful and can force us to do it's biddings if it ever finds us not reckoning in Christ. The believer is indeed mighty and powerful, and the devil trembles at his presence, but this is a reality only manifest when we abide in Christ and he in us.

Until we come into the fullness of this understanding of our reckoning, we stand defeated against sin, but equipped with this knowledge, we become one step closer to Spiritual consistency, from here we move to the next process, which is Consecration.

Let Us Pray ;

- Open thou the eyes of my understanding Lord, that I may see your light.
- I count myself as dead to Sin and alive unto Christ.
- My faith becomes strengthened by the power of the Holy ghost, amen.
- I choose to abide in Christ and he in me.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONSECRATION (PRESENTING OURSELVES)

We've come now to the last chapter of the Part one of this book, I really really hope the previous chapters have been LIFE to your Spirit. If not, do yourself good by revisiting them. In the light of that, we continue our study. The third step as was stated in Chapter two, is Presenting Ourselves or Consecration;

" Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but PRESENT YOURSELVES to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. " (Romans 6:13 ESV)

In the context of which we are making our study, Consecration is the act of devoting or dedicating oneself unto God. In the scripture above, after that St. Paul had brought us into the knowledge of our death and enjoined us to reckon so, he finally admonishes us to present ourselves to God, in other words, to give ourselves over to God. Following the divine order, this is the most logical thing to do. Why so ? Come with me, let's make a quick analysis to confirm this conclusion;

We started by coming into the knowledge of the fact that when we confessed Jesus as Lord and Saviour and got Baptized we were permitted to partake of his death and resurrection, that is, we died with him on the Cross and arose unto newness of life in him, and therefore the very dominion of Sin over us was broken and this happened not because Sin died but instead because we died to Sin and now received a new life from God, then we came to reckon this as a real truth, that is, this understanding now makes us to see ourselves as people who have truly died to Sin, and

are alive now to God for real. Now, if these are really true (and of course they are), then it is very logical to say that we no longer own our lives, because in accepting Christ and being baptized we died for real (remember the exegesis in Chapter three), the life we used to have was given up, we became dead and Christ gave us his life to begin to live, so as Christians we now live the very life of Christ himself, not ours, ours is no more, it's his life we live now, the same life he had when he walked the face of the Earth, the same life he exists by in heaven right now is the same life he gave to us to live, suffice it to say we are living on borrowed life, it's like an hospital patient on life support receiving oxygen, he/she knows that borrowed time is all that is left and at anytime it can be taken away. The same it us for us Christians, we are living a borrowed life, the very life of Christ.

So, based on this understanding, it is then logical to conclude that we ought to present ourselves unto God, he is the rightful owner of our lives now, he owns it.

Just as I have been emphasizing in previous chapters, the divine order must be followed which is KNOWING, RECKONING, CONSECRATION. This is because you have no life to present unto God if you do not first reckon that you now have a new life which is his and your own life has ended on the Cross, and you cannot reckon this if you don't already know that you have died and ressurected into life in Christ. Infact, you cannot even present yourself unto God otherwise because God will not accept your offering as it isn't his to accept, already he has condemned everything that is of the old man to the Cross, and whatever is coming to him must be in Christ (John 14:6), so if you do not follow this process, suffice it to say you have not presented yourself to God as one who is alive from death. You see when we became believers, we didn't give our lives to God, no, our lives were condemned to the Cross and we received the life of Christ, so, technically speaking we didn't give our life to Christ, rather we died and

received his life, so then the phrase " I have given my life to Christ ", only becomes valid when we arrive at this stage of presenting ourselves, not our old self, but presenting the life which he has given us as believers (not before being believers) back to him.

THE JOURNEY ONLY JUST BEGAN

It is when we arrive at this stage, where we now realize that he and he alone owns our life and, that we are only entrusted with it, then do we begin our conscious walk with God. This realization makes us aware that everything about us is no longer ours but his; your clothes, money, time, family, education, relationships, marriage, children, talents, every single thing is no longer yours, they are now owned by God, but you see the fact that God owns them all doesn't mean he will take them by force, no, you will have to willingly let him have them all. You see you must understand that when you decide to fraternize with a spirit being, any spirit being at all, there is always a demand, you must give something in return, no Spirit will agree to fraternize with you without getting something from you in return, just like our fathers during the days of idol worship, they appeased the idols with human sacrifice of blood, and whatever else the idols required of them, yet such fraternity had in it no promise of eternal life, but when we fraternize with the Holy Spirit, he only asks of one thing, which is that you give yourself over to him, and in return he gives you eternal life as well as a glorious life on Earth, is that not far more profiting than the cost ?.

Usually, it is at this point of presenting ourselves that most believers tend to turn away, because we are not ready to give over control of our lives to someone else other than ourselves but we do not know that it is impossible for man to be without a spiritual jurisdiction, it's either you give yourself to God or to the Devil. " But then I am a Christian already", you may

say, and while that is true you forget of the fact that you began a process of Knowing, Reckoning and Consecration which you refused to complete and you cannot remain at a stage for so long, you will begin to retrace till you fall back to the realm of the flesh where the Devil has strong authority over you, remember the analogy of the Aircraft in the previous chapter, if the Aircraft refuses to do everything required by the laws of aerodynamics while in the sky, sooner or later it will retrace out of the jurisdiction of the aerodynamic laws and fall back into the domain of the gravity law which will force it to end up as a terrible crash.

Let me stress again on the fact that in presenting ourselves to God, he requires everything from us, no less, it must be 100% or nothing. Nothing can be kept from him, he will have to scrutinize every aspect of our life, no stone will be left unturned (Heb 4:13), he will have to judge everything by his standards and whatever in our life that is negating his ways or not according to his perfect will for us will have to go. It is like the way the flashlight of a Camera works. The flashlight of a Camera obeys a principle called "all or none principle". When you click the trigger of a camera, for the flashlight to operate, the energy supply from the battery in the camera must be enough, if it isn't enough then the flashlight will not operate, i.e, if the minimum threshold energy required to power the flashlight is 80% battery power, then the energy supply must be nothing less than 80%, if the energy supply is even 79.999% the flashlight will not work, that 0.001% as insignificant as it seems will be the reason why the flashlight will not work, the energy supply must be at least 80% or more, nothing less. In the same way, God will not accept 99.99%, that 0.1% remaining must be given over, God will demand it of you. This is the price for walking with God. You see, the concept of presenting ourselves to God does not mean that you will have to carry your properties or wealth to the church and drop at the altar, no. What it means is that you tell God in clear terms that "Lord, everything I have is yours, anytime, anyday you require it of me, I am ready to lay at your

feet ". This is the mindset of a steward, everything we own we are only stewards of them. It is with this mindset that God can give you a personal instruction to give out your Car to who he directs you to and you would willingly do so. This is where you cry to him and say " Lord, all I have is yours, yours I am, do with me whatever you wish". Most times we pray and say " Lord I am yours " but the truth is that if you really understand what you are saying you will not say those words until you mean them. We Catholics have a prayer we pray after receiving holy Communion; " Jesus I love you, all I have is yours, yours I am, yours I want to be, do with me whatever you wish ", you see, if we truly know the meaning of those words, majority of us will refrain from saying them because they are not true to us. You are telling Jesus that you will do whatever he wants you to do, but the instructions embedded in Holy scriptures you have refused to heed but choose to live on your own terms, where then is the integrity of your words ? You must make a decision today, because presenting yourself to God is very definite, just like you know when you died to Sin and when you reckoned it so, also you must know when you consciously consecrate your life over to the will of God. This stage of consecration is where you tell God " not my will Lord, but yours, whatever you will for me, I willingly accept ". Are you ready to consecrate yourself to God ?

TRUE WORSHIP

" I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. " (Romans 12:1 AMP)

You see, true worship is not just in singing and dancing before God, it's

not even in shedding tears before his presence, those are just aspects of it. True worship, as Romans 12:1 above puts it entails of a life lived entirely for God. True worship consists of being a living sacrifice. Have you seen a goat presented to an oracle at a shrine, that goat although it is still alive yet it has been dedicated to the oracle so unlike other goats running about the streets this one no longer has a say in it's life, it is still alive but it is a sacrifice already, the oracle owns it now and at any time it can be killed for the pleasure of the oracle, that is true worship for a believer, that you are alive yet you don't have a say in your life, God is in charge, you are just following like a dummy. True worship is a life consecrated wholly to the will of God. Are you ready to Consecrate your life to the will of God ?.

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

After making a definite decision to present ourselves to God, we now begin to do so by walking daily in the Spirit.

" But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do. But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you

beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]. And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires. If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.] " (Gal 5:16-25)

The scripture above begins by admonishing us to walk and live by the Spirit. Note that it says if we do this then we will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh. This means that when we walk by the Spirit, then there is no way we can fall for the desires of the flesh, and if we do not walk in the Spirit then we probably will fall for it. So the way to avoid the cravings of the flesh is to walk in the Spirit. The scripture then goes further to show us the fruit of the Holy Spirit, that is the resultant effect of the Holy Spirit in the life of one who walks in the Spirit. Do well to study the scripture above, such qualities as listed in the scripture above are what such a life will produce. Do you notice that the scripture didn't call these qualities the FRUITS of the Holy Spirit, but called them FRUIT, that is singular. In other words, there are not nine fruits of the Holy Spirit based on the number listed above, but rather only one fruit which the Holy Spirit's presence produces in a believer and this one fruit in it's mature form has nine qualities as listed above. See it this way, When a coconut tree produces fruits, it doesn't produce different types of fruits, it produces one type of fruit (though in much quantities) that fruit when mature has a number of qualities such as, being green on the outside, brown in the middle, white in the edible inner part, having water in it. These are the

qualities of a ripe coconut fruit, but one which is not maturely ripened might lack one or more of these qualities. So also, the Holy Spirit produces only one fruit of his in us, and that fruit in it's mature form has all the nine qualities listed in the scripture above. This is applicable in understanding that so long as you are walking after the Spirit, you have the fruit of the Spirit in you and are capable of manifesting all nine qualities of that fruit, if for instance you find it difficult to exercise the quality of self-control maybe against lust or something else, then the solution is not for you to begin to pray " Lord, give me self-control ", that's the wrong approach, the solution is for you to either re-visit the divine order of Knowing, Reckoning, Consecration and check if you are in alignment with the process and if you are then all you need do is to walk more consciously and intimately with the Holy Spirit, the deeper you go the more manifest the nine qualities of the fruit of the Spirit will be in your life.

HOW I BROKE OUT OF ADDICTION

The purpose of including this part of my experience in this book is so to help anyone who is held up in one form of addiction or the other no matter how tough to realize that you're not the first and your situation is not helpless. Read on my experience and you might even discover that yours isn't as tough as mine was, and as such you can definitely come out of it.

I used to have a chronic addiction to pornography and masturbation as a result of negative influence. This had taken flesh in me as a teenager before I began my conscious walk with God, so even after I became baptized in the Holy ghost the addiction still remained, though it subsided for about 14 months, but occasionally it kept resurfacing. This addiction lasted for at least 10 years of struggle against it in my life during which I tried everything I knew to do, yet I couldn't break free. I tried discipline, fear

of hell, psychology, fasting, prayers, counselling, and whatever else method that I can't remember now, none was productive. I came to realize that it was both an addiction and also had a strong spiritual footing because every time I fell into it was preceded by sexually provocative dreams, then I would begin to feel as though a dark cloud has been cast over me for the next couple of days following, and no matter what I did or how hard I tried I couldn't fight it, all I wanted to do in my flesh was to obey the sinful craving and eventually I would. I was a chronic addict.

I knew I couldn't continue like this because genuinely I hated it but didn't know the way out as everything I had tried was not fruitful. Others might have tried those things and it worked for them, but it wasn't working for me. I continued crying to God for help, and eventually God began to teach me a lot of principles embedded in this book which eventually paved way for my deliverance. It took a combination of all consistency principles in this book for me to be delivered.

When I came to the point where I had presented myself to God, after that I had understood the principles in this part one of this book, the next thing was for me to begin a life of serious discipline, because the thing is that you can't stop the desires from coming, so long as you are putting on the body of flesh they will come, what you can do is to bring your flesh under such control that you are not moved and therefore do not submit to such desires.

So, I drafted rules for me to begin to live by; already I lived a life of fasting but this time around I increased the intensity of my fast on a weekly basis, as well as discipline to study the word 2-3 times daily, also to keep my passion and hunger alive with Spiritual songs, messages and continuous prayers as well as other things. This is how I broke out of addiction and eventually began to live a life of Spiritual consistency. If your addiction is as strong as mine was, then I recommend same to you,

because only a combination of all principles contained in this book can help you break out. That addiction is not the end of you, if I could break out of it, being that I was so so chronically addicted, then you also can break out of whatever addiction that is finding expression in your life, you just have to be prepared to give it all it takes. Study all that is embedded in this book from part one to two and follow very dilligently, if you do this then I can assure you that your life of Spiritual consistency finally has come.

ALLELUIA!

CONCLUSION

As we bring this Part to a close in this Chapter, permit me to emphasy the need for Prayer. Faith, as we said in the previous chapter gives substance to what initially had no substance, but Prayer it is that gives life to that substance. Without prayer, all that you have understood in this part will be only head knowledge, now more than when you began to study this guide to Spiritual consistency is when you need to enter into your secret place and give life to these understandings you've received. Take this understanding to your prayer altar, and set it ablaze, let it burn in you red hot, then it will become life in you and a consciousness that the Devil cannot take away.

Let Us Pray;

- Thank you Lord, for in you light we see light.
- Thank you for the gift of this understanding you have enriched me with.
- Lord, having known and reckoned, I willingly present myself to you.
- This life I live is yours Lord, I present it to you.

- Jesus I love you, all I have is yours, yours I am, do with me whatever you wish.

- I receive grace to walk after the Spirit.

- I declare that as I yield to the Spirit, I manifest the full blown fruit of the Spirit.

- I refuse to satisfy the cravings of my flesh.

- Fresh fire I pray oh Lord, fall upon my altar.

- Set my life on fire for you God.

PART II

PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL CONSISTENCY

INTRODUCTION

Hello, dear blessed reader and brethren, permit me to say a big CONGRATULATIONS to you as you have gotten to this stage of your study, now if you haven't read the part one above or if you didn't study it very diligently, please do well to go back and study well enough, trust me this is not just any book of which you just skip and begin to read from anywhere, this book is a guide to Spiritual consistency and it has been arranged in an order of which if followed accordingly and dilligently is certain to produce Spiritual consistency.

In the Part one we dealt with the issue of Sin and Flesh once and for all, and thank God, he helped us mightily, alleluia. But is that all there is to Spiritual consistency ?

Spiritual consistency begins with understanding the inward working of the foundational truths of our Faith in our life, but doesn't end there, that is only primary, the secondary aspect of consistency is where we now bring in our efforts aided greatly by the Holy Spirit. Note that this secondary aspect only becomes fruitful after that you have understood the primary aspect of it, this is why it has to be followed in that order.

As the scripture says that let us then move on to the much stronger things of the faith; no longer drinking milk, but now breaking of bones. This is what we are set to do in this Part two. So beloved brethren, strap in your seatbelt, plug in those headphones with powerful background worship as we take flight into the realm of the Spirit *FOR DEEP CALLETH UNTO THE DEEP.*

CHAPTER ONE

#1 DISCIPLINE

In attaining Consistency, one of the foremost principle is DISCIPLINE.

No matter how much you love God, no matter how zealous you are or burdened about his Kingdom, no matter how much endowed the graces of God that are upon you, if you are not disciplined, Consistency is a far cry from you.

Discipline has to do with subjugation of the flesh, being able to do What NEEDS to be done not what we WANT to be done. It has to do with setting priorities right.

In exercising discipline, it involves doing things that we might otherwise not do, but which are necessary and of greater importance.

I've always wondered and marveled at the life of St. Paul, he is my greatest biblical figure, his doggedness and all, how much of God's glory this guy operated, so much that he was looked at like a "god" in many places he took the Gospel to . I studied his life in scriptures and discovered that his walk with God began with a very powerful encounter and throughout the rest of his life he always had supernatural experiences, like when he was caught up to heaven, encounter with Angels and all. I used to think these were the major reasons for his extraordinary life such that he stood out the most among the Apostles. But then I found out that he had serious struggles such as he spoke of in Romans 7: 14-24.

" We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am a creature of the flesh [carnal, unspiritual], having been sold into slavery under [the control of] sin.

*I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled, bewildered]. I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]. Now if I do [habitually] what is contrary to my desire, [that means that] I acknowledge and agree that the Law is good (morally excellent) and that I take sides with it. However, it is no longer I who do the deed, but the sin [principle] which is at home in me and has possession of me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] For I fail to practice the good deeds I desire to do, but the evil deeds that I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing. Now if I do what I do not desire to do, it is no longer I doing it [it is not myself that acts], but the sin [principle] which dwells within me [fixed and operating in my soul]. So I find it to be a law (rule of action of my being) that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands. For I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]. But I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh] a different law (rule of action) at war against the law of my mind (my reason) and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh]. O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death?
" (Romans 7:14-24 AMP)*

So I was not satisfied with my answer, until I came across 1 Cor 9:25-27 ;

" Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I DISCIPLINE MY BODY AND KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL, lest after preaching to others I myself should be

disqualified " (1 Cor 9:25-27 ESV)

Studying this scripture made me realize that beyond the encounters and supernatural experiences, what made St. Paul so unique and pro-active was his Discipline. He says here that he " Disciplines his body and brings it under control ", the Good news version of the Bible says " COMPLETE CONTROL ", this makes us know that there were many times he didn't want to do the things he needed to do, that there were times he wanted to give up, that there were times he wanted to go astray, however he didn't listen to the tuggings at his flesh, he rather made up his mind to do what was necessary. The Amplified version of the Bible says " I buffet my body (handle it roughly, DISCIPLINE IT BY HARSHIPS) ", this tells us that he had to subject his body to unpleasant conditions just to achieve his aims and do what was necessary.

From his life I have come to understand that we can have supernatural experiences and encounters everyday of our lives and yet never be consistent in our walk with God if we are not disciplined. You can love God all you want, be the most zealous believer on Earth, but without discipline in your Christian walk you'll NEVER be spiritually consistent. You can love prayer so much, infact the best way to pray is on the strength of a prayer burden, but if you are not disciplined you will not be spiritually consistent in prayer because a prayer burden will not always be on you. You hear of believers praying for as much as 12 hours, 20 hours and so on, and you think it's just because they love to pray ? Yes we trust the Holy Spirit to quicken us to pray, but it will take discipline because at times you'll want to pray and you won't just feel like praying at all, Men ought always to pray, that instruction won't be carried out by burden alone, it will require discipline. Living a life of holiness will require discipline, many times you'll WANT to yield to the flesh but discipline it is that will remind you that you do not NEED to do so. You'll want to live life anyhow, but discipline will

make you know that you have a Purpose to achieve on Earth and as such should not waste time doing unnecessary things. Discipline is key.

This issue about Discipline is as a result of the Flesh, being that our flesh has desires of its own, it always wants to be pleased and be in comfort, it does not recognize necessity, only luxury, glory and the likes. So if we are to achieve spiritual consistency, we must override some of its desires by subjecting the flesh to discipline. We must make up our mind to take the approach of discipline towards consistency in our walk with God.

Discipline and Self-control

Self-control is among the qualities of the fruit the Holy Spirit bears in us as believers (Gal 5:23) . I've always wondered that what is the difference then between Discipline and self-control, since they both have to do with subjugation of the Flesh basically.

Discipline is the effort we consciously make by ourselves to keep the desires of our flesh under control so we can do what needs to be done, Self-control on the other hand is an ability that comes about as a result of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, it's a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in us the more we fellowship with him. An unbeliever can walk in discipline but cannot manifest the Self-control that is a product of the holy Spirit's presence in a believer's life.

To be Spiritually Consistent as believers, we must be self-controlled, however, it's not possible to manifest self-control adequately without discipline. This is because self-control is like the grace supplied us by the Holy Spirit to keep our flesh subject, we make use of that grace by applying discipline. Self-control is simply discipline which has been smeared with grace from the Holy Spirit. A believer is self-controlled when he

acknowledges his weakness as a Man before the Holy Spirit and as such receives grace from him, then he consciously makes use of that grace in keeping his priorities right and doing what needs to be done through discipline. This is how a believer is stronger than an unbeliever, because you aren't just trying to be disciplined but also grace (self-control) is supplied you by the Holy Spirit's presence in you to achieve same.

Discipline towards the Word ;

To begin with, pick a time or period of the day that is suitable for you as to when to study the word, decide how much time (between 15 mins to an hour or beyond). Make sure to stick to this decision no matter what, no matter how tired or weak you may get, when it's that period ensure to study the word.

By the way, you need to understand the reason for studying the word of God. Why do we study the word of God ? Is it because we were taught to do so ? The reason for studying the word is to come into an understanding of our identity in Christ and an understanding of the operations of the Kingdom of God. The word of God shows us who we are in Christ, this understanding empowers us to walk in the tangible dimension of what is written. It also helps us understand everything about how the Kingdom of God is run, it is like a manual, a constitution, a guide on the Kingdom of God, the Word is the growth prescription for a believer, so it becomes crucial that we apply discipline towards STUDYING the word of God, much more than studying we need to APPLY it to our daily lives. Studying the word of God without applying it is like standing before a mirror to see your true image, appreciating that image but then when you walk away you totally forget what you look like and thus live below the expectations of the glory you saw in your image through the mirror (James 1:22-25).

Discipline towards Holiness (Purity);

We must take a firm decision to walk in Holiness. In walking in Holiness, we must understand that we operate from the finished work of Christ. We must understand first that Holiness is useless without righteousness, and our righteousness is of no use at all. We stand on the righteousness of Christ, we are righteous because we put on his righteousness, this causes us to be justified before God, to be termed as " NOT GUILTY ", it is from this standpoint that we strive by discipline to walk in Holiness.

Holiness has to do with making conscious efforts to abstain from sin and every unrighteousness, not as a rule, but because of our understanding of righteousness (our justification) and because of the love of God in our hearts (Eph 1:4). Holiness is consecration to the will of God.

To keep your purity in this 21st century, you must develop some "Conditioned reflex actions", these are reflex actions which are not inborn but formed over time due to conscious repetition i.e walking is a simple conditioned reflex action, you walk without thinking of how to do so because you have been walking from childhood and you became used to it over time such that you do it daily without conscious thought. The same way you must form such habits that will respond on their own in times of need without you consciously thinking of them. Example of such include " Looking away ". You must learn to look away within the first 3 seconds of a provocation to Temptation (such as lust), when you see a lady/guy or image that sparks up lust in you immediately look away, those first three seconds are very precious, if you fail to do so within those first three seconds your ability to resist such temptation grows weaker and you become susceptible, just **LOOK AWAY**.

Another of such habits is to immediately speak in tongues at a provocation to Temptation such as lust (whilst still looking away), this helps to dissipate the lustful desires quickly. These are just a few of them.

So you take a decision to walk in Holiness, this is enforced by a lifestyle of Prayer which allows us to be strengthened in our Spirit man to overcome the desires of the flesh and by being conscious always of walking in Holiness and the life of Christ in us. Discipline towards Holiness entails of a daily conscious effort to abstain from EVERY occasion of sin, a friend once told me that his Pastor preached and commented that only a foolish Christian will watch the T.V without a remote, it sounds cynical but given a deep thought it is true, in such a society where everything goes, a believer who is conscious about his/her Holiness walk will take extra care to secure it against every avenue through which the devil might launch an attack, it could be anything, not just T.V, it could be while surfing the internet, watching movies on your Smartphone, anything, be on guard always, moreso, if you constantly watch hip-hop music videos I assure you that you'll never be Spiritually Consistent, a very huge percentage of hip-hop music videos contain sexually provocative content, you watch them and begin to develop lustful tendencies. Being Spiritually Consistent is not magic, it takes DISCIPLINE, if you're not ready to do these things written here, then your quest for spiritual consistency in this time and day will be a long shot, be such that you flinch and cower at every occasion of Sin not out of fear of the Devil, but out of a holy fear of hurting the Holy Spirit.

Discipline towards Purpose;

We must understand that each and every one of us has a divine purpose for our lives. Following it consistently is crucial. This requires discipline. This has to do with setting goals in line with our life's purpose,

also setting how to go about achieving them strictly, ensuring to go through them at intervals, either weekly, monthly or whichever way (more on this will be discussed in a later Chapter).

Discipline towards Prayer;

It is very crucial that we are consistent in our prayer life, being that it is the biggest indicator of how much ALIVE we are spiritually. Jesus said in Luke 18:1 that "*Men ought always to Pray and not to faint* ", this refers to consistency in Prayer. We must come to the point where prayer has become a lifestyle.

The thing about prayer is that it is the access point we have to the realm of the Spirit. God is Spirit and he communes with Man in the Spirit, so in order to have a healthy worship with God, in order to connect to/with God we can only do so, not in this physical realm but in the realm of the Spirit, Prayer it is that grants us legal access to this realm.

The whole of our Christian experience is hinged upon our Prayer life, prayer goes beyond talking and listening to God, for it is in prayer that we enforce the word of God, it is in Prayer that we pull down dark orchestrations and demonic activities, in Prayer we declare the future and bring it into the physical realm. Every blessing from God is received in the Spiritual realm and brought into physical manifestation through Prayer.

Prayer is everything to a believer, no wonder Jesus emphasized constancy and consistency in Prayer such that it becomes a **LIFESTYLE**.

To walk consistently in our Prayer life, we must apply discipline. Choose a suitable period of the day/night and decide how long you wish to engage in Prayer (at least an hour), then make sure to stick to this no

matter what happens. No matter how weak you feel, or the nudgings at your Flesh, when it gets to the prayer period begin to engage in Prayers. If you feel weak, ask the Holy Spirit for grace to Pray and even if you don't feel like praying, **PRAY STILL !**, "*For our life is a matter of Faith not of sight*" (2 Cor 5:7). We do not walk by feelings, we walk by Faith.

By the way, if you feel the one hour minimum quota is not okay, then you need to look at the words of Jesus and how pained he was when his Disciples could not tarry with him in prayer for just an hour in Matthew 26:40 ;

" And he cometh unto the disciples and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour ? "

Also, if you begin praying and are unable to meet up with minimum of an hour, just be faithful, when you are consistent and sincere you'll grow in it till you can stay longer hours in Prayer that your flesh might groan in pain yet the Prayer hunger has eaten deep into you that you can't stop. When I began my walk with God many years ago I could barely pray for even 15mins, but over the years by grace and sacrifice I have been helped of the Holy ghost such that I have stayed as long as 20 hours in the place of Prayer, and now I desire even to go deeper, not to boast, but because we have come to see how necessary Prayer is.

To aid your discipline in prayer or the word, you could set an alarm at your specified time of prayer or word study, or some sort of reminder like a physical object you cannot avoid seeing often (i.e a church wrist band with PRAYER written on it), this will remind you to always pray.

Also, more often than not, engage in Spiritual fasts, they are a discipline in themselves as they aid to keep the flesh under and allow the Spirit man rise better.

We must understand also " How to pray effectively ", there are different types of prayer and we must understand them for better effectiveness. The most central or major part of our prayer should be Fellowship prayers with the Holy Spirit. Read books and listen to messages on Prayer to aid you.

If we must be consistent in our walk with God, DISCIPLINE is a rule that cannot be overlooked, make a decision today to begin to be disciplined.

Let us Pray;

- Lord, I receive grace to be Disciplined.
- Let hunger for thy word oh Lord envelope me.
- Lord, make me conscious always of walking in Holiness.
- Grant me grace, Lord, that I may faithfully keep your statutes and oblates.
- I receive fresh prayer power in Jesus name.
- Quicken me oh Lord, that I may call upon your name in heart felt prayers.
- I begin to walk in the light of my Divine purpose henceforth in Jesus name.

CHAPTER TWO

#2 THE ENVIRONMENT RULE

The second principle we will look at is what I call " THE ENVIRONMENT RULE ". This is one thing many believers are not conscious of but which has great impact in our Spiritual consistency.

When we speak of THE ENVIRONMENT RULE, we refer to both our Social and Physical environment.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

This has to do with our social relationships, the complex of Persons and things we interact with on a daily basis. We must understand that man is a social being, the saying " No man is an Island " is very true, no one exists independently, we are affected by the things around us which we permit to influence us either consciously or unconsciously. For instance, the songs we sing are not necessarily ours, they were produced by others, the style of hair a person makes could be as a result of the interest of his or her friends in such hairstyle or haircut. No one exists alone, even the Godhead, they are social beings in that the Father cannot exist without Jesus who is his word, neither can Jesus exist without the Father, and neither can both exist without the Holy Spirit and vice-versa. They are so dependent on each other and exist as one.

So our Environment is a construct that includes our social relationships; People and things we interact with on a daily basis. And the thing about an Environment is that on the long run you would mirror the dimensions that find expression there in, you would look just like your environment.

The Law of the Environment states that " Eventually, you become as what you constantly interact with " .

We understand this by looking at 2 Cor 3:18;

" And all of us, as with unveiled face, [BECAUSE WE] CONTINUED TO BEHOLD [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit " . (2 Cor 3:18 AMP)

St. Paul was teaching us here that we are constantly transfigured from one glory realm to another because we continued to behold the glory of God, in other words the more we interact with the glory of God, the more we become in reality that very glory, this is " the mystery of transfiguration " . Alleluia!

When persons interact consistently, each person rubs off on the other. I have a friend who covers his eyes with any piece of clothing in order to sleep, I used to tell him stubbornly that I would cause him to break off the habit, eventually I didn't know when I began to cover my own eyes with a piece of clothing in order to sleep under the excuse that I need to block out the rays of light for me to sleep during the noon.

People rub-off on each other, and this is something that many Christians are not conscious of, we interact consistently with persons who are not of like mind and we are not careful to sieve what comes into us from them. No wonder St. Paul gave a strong admonition in 2 Cor 6:14 ;

" Be ye NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? "

Most persons mistake this scripture to mean that Christians shouldn't

relate or interact with unbelievers, this is not so as we cannot avoid them on a daily basis, moreover we have a duty to carry out which involves saving their souls and that requires that we must interact with them. This Scriptural text isn't just speaking of believers and unbelievers, in essence what St. Paul meant here is " THE ENVIRONMENT RULE ", he meant that we must be very careful of our interactions with people, believers and unbelievers alike. We must be intentional to not engage in polluting interactions with people as these things drain us of Spiritual energy, and we become influenced towards things that are against our faith. You see, you must understand that we are influenced by energy levels. The energy you allow to influence you is what determines the manner of actions you will produce. Haven't you done something before and later you were saying " how could I have done something like that ? ", you were influenced by an energy level, don't be shocked if you find yourself lusting after a child that has not even entered puberty, it's not about being a pedophile, it's energy levels, don't be surprised if you find yourself lusting after or attracted to a person of same-sex, it's not about being an homosexual, it's energy levels. Two predominant energy levels are **LIGHT (positive energy)** and **DARKNESS (negative energy)**, whichever you allow to flood your soul will influence the actions you produce. If darkness floods your soul you will produce the works of darkness, if Light floods your soul you will produce the works of light, this is why you must be very conscious of your environment and who/what you allow into your space as they all emit energy (either positive or negative).

For a fact, not everyone is needed in our lives, not everyone should become your friend, as a believer you should be intentional enough to check those you allow into your environment and the things you permit to influence you, because on the long run you will reflect your environment.

Associating with Elijah made Elisha into who he became, associating

with Jesus Christ made the Apostles into who they became, associating with St. Paul made Timothy into who he became, thus it is scripturally proven in the old testament, Gospels and Epistles that associations are powerful and have a strong impact in your life. The question is, which persons do you consistently associate with ?

The saying " Show me your friend and I will tell you who you are " is so true. You shouldn't expect to be spiritually consistent when those who make-up your environment are inconsistent persons.

SEE THIS ANALOGY ;

Take a burning coal out of fire and drop it on the ground alone or in the midst of stones, in minutes the Coal dies down. The same is with us, you cannot outgrow your environment unless you take conscious steps to Change it. If all those you relate with are unbelievers and people who don't share your passion, in time your consistency will drop. But then take a Coal which has not been exposed to heat and drop it in the midst of burning coals, after some time it will contact the fire from the surrounding burning coals. I used to be an Altar-boy in my local Church and sometimes I was chosen with a few others to burn the Coal used during Mass. I remember that sometimes we had some particular coals which were very stubborn, so stubborn they refused to burn. What we did to such coals was to put them deep into the midst of the very much burning coals and even increase the heat by fanning, and in minutes Coals that were so stubborn would burn red hot.

Your environment is very crucial to your Spiritual consistency, you must intentionally scrutinize it, listen to me, you don't need everyone in your life, whoever is not headed in your direction should be kept at arm's length. If you want to be Spiritually consistent, the seven closest persons to you , should be persons with serious Zeal and passion for God, persons who see

what you see and even pursue such vision beyond you, persons who will push you beyond your limits, " You don't walk with Chickens and expect to fly, search for the Eagles where they breed, they are your company ! "

Every great man you know today, check his Social environment you'll find it is full of persons of like-mind, this rule cannot be overlooked in the issue of Consistency.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Also, there is the need to understand your physical environment. Most believers are not conscious of this i.e You set your prayer time at midnight, but then over time you realize it seems not to be working, maybe you have a job that involves Night shifts or something else that makes night time not feasible, the best thing to do is to change your prayer time, there is no place in Scriptures that says your Prayer time must be midnight. It is good to pray at midnight, it is equally good to pray at other periods of the day. So if midnight is not suitable, change it to a period of the day that suites you. Study your environment to see what suits you, something must definitely workout, also besides your fixed prayer time, PRAY ON THE GO, remember the words of Christ are " Men ought ALWAYS to Pray ", make prayer a lifestyle.

Another thing to be conscious of is when we change physical environments or when certain situations or circumstances come about that causes the current Prayer/study period to become inappropriate. At such times, sit down and check if the current Prayer/study times still fit the new circumstances, if they don't then make necessary adjustments.

Before I got admitted into the University I prayed during the midnights, but when I resumed at the University I checked and realized that midnight prayers wouldn't favour me due to a number of reasons so I changed my Prayer period to the Evenings after I would have been done with all lectures

for the day. Still the same amount of hours but a different period. During semester breaks when I would stay at a friend's place I noticed that Prayers won't be feasible for me both evenings and midnight, so I changed the period to praying between morning and noon, thus I was Consistent. Most believers would not take note of these things and they would see themselves diminish spiritually and complain that they don't know what to do, some would cry that the admission or job or marriage is affecting their Spiritual life. Are you saying that God was wrong to have blessed you with those things ? Sorry to disappoint you, it's on you not on God or anyone else. You must intentionally take note of these things if not you'll keep moving like a wave spiritually.

Make conscious efforts today to work on your ENVIRONMENT ; scrutinize your social relationships, be conscious of what you allow to rub off on you from others, check to see if your physical environment favours you, also be intentional to note necessary adjustments whenever you make a change in residence or life situations.

Let Us Pray;

- I break Off from every Evil relationships in Jesus name.
- Oh Lord, help me prune my environment (physical or social).
- Father, connect me to Men whose heart burn for you as mine do.
- Connect me Oh God to my Spiritual tribe.

CHAPTER THREE

#3 BURDENS AND ZEAL

Here is a third principle for consistency; " BURDENS AND ZEAL ". Our inability to maintain burdens and Zeal is partly why we are inconsistent in our walk with God. Most believers do not understand that it is our duty to maintain our zeal and burdens.

ZEAL

Zeal is what drives us towards God, when I say zeal I refer to our passion, hunger for God, the drive to serve God, to always want to please him. Many of us do not know that we have to FEED our zeal so it doesn't die, when your zeal dies, you won't even be concerned about being consistent again. There are a lot of things we do which choke our zeal.

" Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us STRIP OFF AND THROW ASIDE EVERY ENCUMBRANCE (UNNECESSARY WEIGHT) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us. " (Hebrews 12:1 AMP)

The scripture there says to " strip off and throw aside every encumbrance, every unnecessary weight ", you see it says " Unnecessary " weight before it then said " that sin which so readily clings to and entangles us ". The truth is that we attend Christian programs, revival meetings, and

all and we get fired up, our zeal, passion, hunger comes alive, we get all prepped up and begin to pursue God, but after one or two weeks or so the zeal dies down, because we are not careful to manage it. It is not God's duty to maintain your zeal for you, it's your duty. We return from such programs like a prayer stretch or impartation service, then you begin to listen to and sing dampening worldly musics, begin to watch movies so much that the fire gradually depletes, we interact so much with persons who have no passion for God, engage in gossips and many things which choke zeal directly or indirectly. You know them, even if I didn't mention yours. Some of these things are not entirely sinful but scriptures refer to them as " UNNECESSARY WEIGHT " .

The truth is that we aren't even careful to note these things, we just do anything we feel like doing, live carelessly WITHOUT DISCIPLINE, until we discover that the zeal, the hunger in our hearts have dried up, then you try to rise up to pray but your spiritual energy has been depleted so much and your flesh has gained so much energy that it fights strong against your will to pray, so you discover you can't pray, it didn't just happen like that, it happened because of your carelessness.

" Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth ENTANGELETH HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE ; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. "

(2 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV)

This shows us how a soldier lives, he is ever conscious of his service and duties and makes sure that nothing gets in the line of duty, nothing hinders his active service, not even family. This is how we should be, we should be so careful about maintaining our zeal, our passion, our hunger for God. Most times when we do those things that deplete our zeal, the Holy Spirit nudges at us a RED LIGHT, but we ignore his warning, we

continue doing them, sometimes we even know that this will cause our Zeal to deplete but we keep doing them. Take a minute and truthfully check every time you fell into some particular sins or your zeal died down, you'll observe that somehow you sensed or knew that such would possibly happen but instead continued what you were doing till you fell into such sin or your zeal died down, i.e listening to dampening worldly musics continuously, you knew somehow that it would affect your fire, but you just continued without minding till you saw that you were so weak to pray.

There is a constant battle between the Spirit and the flesh for the possession of the soul, the activities we engage in strengthen either of them, the more spiritual activities we engage in the more our spirit man is strengthened and by spiritual activities I don't mean only fasting, prayer and word study, it includes every good and righteous thing we do in the kingdom, every act of love, every manifestation of light, these things strengthen the spirit man and allows him possess the soul, but the more we engage in carnal activities such as sin, food and whatever else that doesn't edify the spirit, our flesh is strengthened more. Note that I didn't say food or movies are sinful, but they don't edify the spirit man, so their intake should be at a minimal level. By the way, if you're a believer and you listen to such songs as " SOAPY ", you can never be consistent spiritually, IT IS SINFUL !. We should scrutinize whatever we allow into us, scrutinize every song you listen to, if it is toxic to your Spirit man discard it. I don't have a problem with Hip-hop music, where the problem lies is on the lyrics, what's the aim in a song that only glorifies sex and pollutes the mind ? we must be really careful !. No wonder scriptures say to GUIDE THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE.

The activities we engage in which edify our spirit man against those that don't should be in a ratio of 60:40 at the least, if you're very intentional you'll do more. If it's 50:50, believe me when I say you won't be consistent

spiritually. The Spiritual activities " **MUST** " outweigh the others, if not you'll be spiritually lukewarm, on fire today down tomorrow, worse still spiritually DEAD. You must be intentional !

Also are those things that easily beset us, there are somethings we notice usually precede each time we fall into a particular sin, those things in themselves might not be sinful but are outlets to sin, it is expedient to quit or stop or reduce to the barest point such things. For instance you notice that you are a very curious person and curiosity is always what lands you into pornography, you could see a particular movie or post online or be curious about something, as you begin to explore it you could get to the point where it leads to pornography unintentionally, it becomes crucial then for you to check your curiosity, whenever you notice that you're about to walk down the same path, immediately quit what you're doing, better still do it in the presence of other godly brethren because sin thrives in secrecy but is ashamed in the open. Or you discovered that the friends you keep are what make you keep drinking alcohol even when you don't want to or passing by beer parlours is what causes you to eventually end up drinking alcohol, it is needful for you to cut-off relations with such friends and try to avoid passing by beer parlours till you are able to kill the desire completely....and did I hear you ask if consuming alcohol is sinful ? Well, you might want to argue on that but no Christian who is intentional about his or her walk with God will intentionally consume alcohol. I won't go further on that.

Whatever it is you have noticed is the pattern leading to such sins, end them if necessary or reduce completely and constantly check them. If your boyfriend or girlfriend is the reason you keep falling into fornication, end the relationship, if movies are the reason you can't pray or study the word or work consistently towards your purpose, reduce it to the barest or even quit it. No price is too great to pay for consistency with God.

Feeding your Zeal;

We earlier said that zeal has to be fed, if not it will die on the long run. You have to feed your zeal by reading spiritual books, spiritual contents/posts on social media rather than dampening posts, follow persons on social media who are God-minded and who correspond with your passion for God, interact more with people of like mind spiritually, listen more to gospel songs, not just any gospel song, but such as that minister to your spirit such as songs of Sunday theophilus, Victoria orenzie, songs of hers such as " Set our hearts on fire for you " will increase your hunger for God. Sometimes, just relax on a chair or lay on the bed, arrange a series of powerful worship in order of ascension on your phone or music player, put on an headphone/airpod and be still, just soak under that atmosphere, stay like that for as long as possible, even sleep off under that atmosphere, your spirit never sleeps, it keeps soaking, you'll notice that after such an experience you are soaked full with LIGHT (the energy of God), your hunger and passion is refreshed.

" For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]. " (Philippians 4:8 AMP)

The scripture above gives a yardstick for judging the activities we engage in ; TRUE, JUST, PURE, WORTHY OF REVERENCE, HONOURABLE, KIND AND WINSOME, GRACIOUS, LOVELY, VIRTUOUS, EXCELLENCE, WORTHY OF PRAISE. Whatever falls short of these standards is harmful to your walk with God.

BURDENS

A burden in this context refers to those desires that become shot-up in our hearts when we pray or as we grow in God. At times, you could notice that there is a strong desire to increase your prayer or study hours, or you could feel serious burden to begin to intercede for a group of people or you feel that the Holy Spirit is restricting you from doing some particular things or strongly leading you to do a particular thing. It is your duty also to manage such burdens till they accomplish their aim.

God ignites burdens in us to drive us towards accomplishing certain tasks, a burden is how God feels about a certain situation or thing. Burdens come in varying degrees of intensity and could be short or long term. The intensity of burdens increase as we pay attention to them, till it gets to the point where you become swallowed up by such burdens and all you desire is to see the purpose for the burden come into fruition.

Also the length of time could be as short as a few minutes or hours such as burden to Preach in a Bus or as long as weeks, months or even years, such as burdens to intercede for a cause or people, some burdens are permanent such as those connected to your life's purpose i.e Whenever I see young persons my heart begins to burn and yearn to see them on fire for God. This is a life burden and one pointing to my purpose. This particular book " FIRE FOR CONSISTENCY " is a burden the Lord put in my heart and it tarried for almost two years before I paid serious attention to it for some reasons. It is by mercy the Lord still permitted me to write and publish it even after I delayed the burden for so long.

Paying attention to burdens is one key to Consistency because when we accomplish the purpose of a burden per time we rise in spiritual rank.

Each time we attend to and accomplish the task of a burden, it is a message to God that he can count on our faithfulness and loyalty. The desire to see a burden's aim accomplished will drive you to Prayer, to fasting, to word study and whatever else the burden requires of you. The demands of burdens may not be sweet or nice, but the end result is always great and eternal in scope.

Being intentional to manage burdens and Zeal is crucial to spiritual consistency, just as the psalmist says " Zeal for thy house has consumed me Oh Lord ", managing them well brings us to a point where we are consumed by the Holy Ghost.

Be intentional towards Managing Burdens and Zeal.

Let Us Pray;

- Oh Lord, SET MY HEART ON FIRE for you.
- Let Zeal for your house EAT ME UP OH GOD!.
- Cause me to carry your burden Oh God, let me feel the way you feel.
- Cause me to loose my rest, my sleep, cause me to be consumed by the burden you've tasked me with oh Lord.
- I receive grace to attend to every Burden from you Lord.

CHAPTER FOUR

#4 THE HEART FACTOR

Principle No. 4 is called THE HEART FACTOR. You can attain consistency by obeying every other principle of it but on the long run, this particular principle will determine if your consistency has been worth while and if you will continue being consistent.

While growing in ministry, I had an unusual zeal for the things of God which pushed me to fasting, prayers, word study. I ousted most other ministers in my local church. I was so desirous of breakthrough in ministry because all I wanted to do was serve God through ministry, I didn't see myself as an office worker or doing anyother thing aside ministry, however as I grew in my walk with God, the Holy Spirit began to reveal to me the things that matter the most, one of which is THE HEART FACTOR. As I came into the understanding of this, my motives and prayer pattern changed, I could fast for 40 days or beyond seeking the Anointing (and there's nothing wrong in that if done right) but when I came into the understanding of this my biggest cry in prayer became " ALIGNMENT ", such that at for a long period of time in my life, my only cry in the place of prayers was that my heart and will be aligned unto God.

The Heart factor has to do with your motives, your reason for seeking God. Ask yourself " Why do I desire to be consistent in my walk with God ? ", " Why do I always pray, fast, study the word ? ", Why do I earnestly pursue God ? ". If you sincerely ask yourself these questions, there's a huge chance you'll notice many selfish answers. One time, I heard someone say " If the promise of Heaven is taken away, will you still follow God ? ".

Most persons serve God from a self-centered motive, some seek to

carry the anointing because they are more power or money conscious than God-conscious.

The posture of our heart is crucial because on the long run after being consistent for a period required by Heaven and the season of lifting appears, if your heart is not right with God, you will not be lifted thus. God doesn't just require that we are consistent, but also that our hearts be right before him, he cannot make use of us otherwise.

It is very crucial that we sustain a heart posture that is right before God and this is attained by sincerity with God in the place of intimate prayers and constantly checking the contents of our heart. Ask yourself why you do the things you do for God and be sincere in answering them. If the reason you pursue God is just to carry the anointing then your heart posture is not right, if you pray a lot so to receive certain blessings from God only your heart posture is not right, if even your desire to be blessed of God is so you can boast about it your heart posture is not right, and the painful thing about being consistent but with a wrong heart posture is that it ends as an effort in futility.

Let me ask you, If God doesn't grant you answers to your prayers; if you end up unable to marry as a woman despite your dedication to kingdom service, if you don't become rich despite all your efforts, if you carry-over your courses despite all your hard work and even prayers, if it seems God fails you despite your faith in him, will you still declare boldly " **JESUS IS MY LORD** " ??? . Are you following him because of what you can get from him or because he has become your LORD and MASTER ?.

The primary reason for all we do in the kingdom of God must be from love of God, just love of God and a strong desire to see his will done.

" Your life must be controlled by Love... " (Eph 5:2)

Love of God must be the basis for everything we do in the kingdom, this is what will cause us to always want to please God in every way and not offend him. The reason we press for the anointing must be because we desire to be used of God to reach out to people and not for self-glorification but that the kingdom may come, and in doing this there is a serious need to submit our heart before God for constant check.

Scriptures say "*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it ?*" (Jer 17:9 KJV)

Also it says ;

" Search my heart, know my thoughts and see if there is any evil way in me and lead me unto the path of everlasting righteousness " (Psalm 139:23-24)

The truth is that most times our heart contains wrong contents of which we might not be aware of. Years back, one of my mentors who trained me in the basics of ministry used to tell me to be wary of pride, he told me that many times, I never understood why he said so then because from my personal observation of myself I wasn't manifesting pride, if you knew me closely then you wouldn't exactly say I was prideful, it wasn't visible. However many months later when God began to reveal to me the contents of my heart I noticed pride, a very subtle almost unnoticeable pride that hid in my heart, that type of pride which is not visible, of which no one would know of it sometimes not even you would know, that type of pride which arises when for instance, someone ministers in worship in the church you attend and you know you could have done it a lot better than the person and so you acknowledge strongly that feeling in your heart, but then when you meet the person physically you sincerely appreciate the person while still strongly acknowledging the former feeling in your heart. You would not know but it is pride in a very subtle manner. It was in the place of

sincere intimate prayers and cry for brokenness and alignment that God opened my eyes to this and other things. If I begin to recount experiences I and very close brethren have had in the place of sincere cries to God for brokenness. Kai. It was in crying for brokenness and alignment with very close brethren that I was slain in the spirit for real for the first time ever, the kind of being slain we read of during ancient Revivals, where you really become unconscious as though you fainted and don't get up for hours. After that experience we all knew that something had been worked inside of us, our hearts became so tender.

Your heart must be right before God if your consistency is to count. There are vices which lie within us and of which we may never discover unless we come to that point of BROKENNESS before God in prayers, asking him to search our heart in all sincerity.

SEARCH MY HEART OH LORD

If anyone ever told David that with all the love he had for God, he was capable of murder and fornication he wouldn't have agreed. If Moses was conscious of the anger that lay quiet in him he would have cried to the Lord to break him of it. There is a serious need to constantly on a daily basis place our hearts before God for thorough search, this heart is deceitful, ONLY GOD CAN KNOW IT.

We must always sustain a posture of Brokenness before God, this is part why when I pray I tell God that I am not ashamed of whatever vices he may find in me, as long as we can end it. When you notice certain vices find expression in your life such as lust, anger, e.t.c don't panic, rather rejoice that you have noticed it's presence, what if you never noticed it till the season comes when you are lifted by God and then it rears its head,

what a terrible fall that will be. If I discover lust finding expression through my body, I take it before God in prayers of brokenness so he can flog it out till it is there no more. Most of the time, we are not sincere with God, you do things and you can't open up to God in prayers, so who else would you be able to open up to ?. There are times I want to pray but I feel so weak, I tell God that " Father, please help me, because If you don't there is no way I will be able to pray " and then I engage in the prayers, that's being sincere with God. Sometimes we notice a lady during the day and unintentionally lust after her, later on when we go to God in prayers we refuse to let him in on that, the right thing a sincere believer would do is to tell God; " Father, I admired Joyce today when I saw her, but I didn't know when I began to lust after her, I am sorry about that Lord, but Father if you don't help me I can't help myself, break this lust off me, my Father ". If you do that with all sincerity (coupled with other principles in this book), strength will arise for you to break off that.

Other times we go to pray and the Holy Spirit nudges at us about some particular thing(s) we do or which he wants us to do but we deny the nudgings, he tries to work on our heart but we refuse it, have you noticed times when you go to pray, and as you worship God, things rise up in your heart like " end that relationship, he is not for you ", but we keep denying those instructions, sometimes you won't be able to pray again because it becomes like a stumbling block. These are the contents of our heart which the Holy Spirit tries to prune, because if he doesn't we won't be fit for the master's use even with our consistency.

Our hearts must be right before God, and the way to this is sincerity before God, maintaining a state of Brokenness before God and acknowledging and calling on always the mercy of God.

Let Us Pray;

- Have MERCY on me oh God.

- Father, help my heart.

- Search my heart oh God, know my thoughts, see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the path everlasting.

- Am not ashamed what you may find in me, search my heart oh God, AND
BREAK ME !.

- Reveal the contents of my heart to me Lord.

CHAPTER FIVE

#5 SENSITIVITY TO SEASONS

Principle No. 5 is called " Sensitivity to seasons " .

A season is a period of time during which certain orchestrations come about in our life, either divine or demonic. Seasons could either be set up to lift a man or cause his downfall. So there is a serious need for sensitivity to seasons that come into our life. No man is exempted from seasons, scriptures say "*Times and chance HAPPEN TO THEM ALL* " (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*)

Most Christians are not sensitive to seasons when they come into their lives. We just pass through it and hope for whatever happens to happen.

" Then the Spirit led Jesus into the Desert TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL " (Matthew 4:1)

You see this scripture is indicative of seasons. The Holy Spirit led Jesus straight from Baptism into the desert, the reason was for him to pass through a season of trial by the Devil. If you check that scripture well, you will notice that the Spirit didn't lead Jesus to fast for 40 days and nights, that was a personal decision, what the Spirit led him to do was to go to the desert and await a season of trial, but Jesus being sensitive that he was about to pass a season of great trial, engaged in fasts and prayer so he could stand the season.

We cannot escape seasons in life, they will always come, it is a question of how sensitive we are to seasons and how we prepare for them. Preceding his passion, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray, he was so

sensitive to the intensity of the season he was about to enter (Season of Passion) that his sweat was as blood, that was not anything divine, it was a physical health breakdown, what happened to him is a health condition in medical science called " HEMATIDROSIS ". It occurs when an individual goes through very great stress and distress, so much that the blood vessels rupture and blood mixes with the liquid in the sweat glands and so the sweat that comes out is as blood. So Jesus was so sensitive that he saw the level of suffering he was about to enter, so much that he began to feel the distress physically, thus causing him to sweat blood. Being sensitive to the season of passion he was about to enter caused him to pray earnestly for the grace to endure till the end.

There is a great need for us to be sensitive to seasons that come into our life, if not our consistency is greatly threatened. There are times when you could enter a season of great tribulation or trial (like Job), you just discover that you see yourself wanting to lust after a lady every now and then although you fight it, if you are not sensitive to notice that it's a season, you will be caught in it's web, because the way to survive a season of demonic orchestrations is by intense prayers and fasts and standing strong on the Word of God, this causes your Spirit man to be strengthened and resist the devices of darkness, and the good thing is that whenever you successfully overcome such type of seasons, you get lifted in rank just like Job was in scripture.

Also there are seasons intentionally orchestrated by God to bring you into greater grace and spiritual ranking. However, if you are not sensitive you will miss such seasons i.e you could notice that since the beginning of a particular month of the year you have been feeling a strong urge to pray much more than you used to. It is possible that a great season of lifting was near and to enter into it requires a certain amount of prayer deposit, if you are not sensitive enough you'll ignore the desire to pray and thus loose

that season of lifting.

It is very pertinent to be sensitive and our sensitivity is heightened through the word and Prayers. Sensitivity to seasons enables you to understand how to face such seasons as they come. Insensitivity is like going into war without knowing anything at all about the enemy, not knowing their strengths, weaknesses, size, armour capacity, nothing at all, such battle has been lost even before it began. We must be sensitive to seasons. In the place of prayers we receive Strategy on how to handle seasons as they come because the requirements of various seasons differ. The lengths of a season differ from another, it could be as short as a few minutes or hours or as long as years, nevertheless, the impact of every single season is eternal in scope as it affects our walk with God.

Also there are seasons when it seems like all our prayers, fasting, word study, sacrifice, obedience are not yielding any result, so much that we become frustrated. This is called " THE SEASON OF WAITING ", the strategy then is not to quit or complain or feel bad or guilty, the strategy is to STAY, to WAIT ON GOD, till that season is over, then the season of lifting appears. Isaiah 40:31 says " *They that WAIT upon the Lord shall be strong and renew their strength....* "

Sensitivity to seasons cannot be overemphasized in consistency. We must work towards it.

Let Us Pray;

- Open my Eyes, open my Ears, help my sensitivity oh Lord.
- Help me to know what to do at every point in time Lord.

CHAPTER SIX

#6 SEPARATION ; STANDING STRONG ALONE !.

The sixth principle we'll be considering is the Principle of Separation. As believers, we must be able to stand strong alone. It is a true fact that Man is a social being, nevertheless we must learn how to stand strong alone if we are to be truly Consistent in our walk with God.

The strength of your Consistency is seen not when you are with fellow brethren, but when you stand alone. There is such a thing as " the corporate Anointing " ; this is that Anointing of the Spirit, that ability that comes as a result of believers fellowshiping together, under such atmosphere our individual graces, rankings, dimensions are merged as one corporate grace that is spread over all present, under such atmosphere what is not originally available in an individual's life can be contracted and become manifest. The corporate Anointing is so powerful, there is no man of God whose individual grace is greater than that of the body of Christ as a whole, however the corporate grace cannot be used as a measure of Consistency in one's life which is why when God lifts Men for major assignments, it is on the basis of the individuals personal efforts/sacrifice not the collective one (not to rule out the place of GRACE and DIVINE ORDINATION).

You are not Spiritually Consistent because you prayed the most in a 50 day Church retreat, rather you are consistent when you are burning in your secret place. There are times when you get separated from fellow brethren and you come into a territory where it will take some time to find new brethren to fellowship with, much more get acquainted with them, if you've not learnt to stand strong alone then, the Devil could capitalize on such period to work against you.

There were times when Jesus had to stand alone, through out his passion till he died on the cross Jesus was standing alone, the Disciples had run away, every one had left him, even the Divine was separated from him then, because scripture says God's eyes cannot behold iniquity and during his passion Jesus became Sin, thus the Father had to look away from him, this is the reason Jesus cried out on the cross " MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME ? ", he could literally feel the emptiness from standing alone, so alone that he couldn't hear the Holy Spirit speak to him, nevertheless he remained Consistent.

If we do not learn to stand strong alone, apart from the collective grace of the Body ; that you are able to Pray, fast, study the word, walk in Holiness, walk in the path of your Divine purpose without anyone coercing or having to talk you into doing them, if we can't do these, then we can't go far with God.

Learning to stand strong alone ;

* To stand strong alone, we must be Disciplined, this is why Discipline is the first and most basic rule of Consistency, without it you can not stand strong alone. You must be Disciplined to do the things you NEED to do whether you FEEL like doing them or not, whether you will be rewarded or not, whether you are being watched or not.

* To stand strong alone, you must be LED of the Holy Spirit, if not trying to stand is an effort in futility. Standing alone doesn't mean you become exempt even from the Holy Spirit, every other person can be exempt but not the Holy Spirit. He is forever our guide and strong hold, although there are times it seems like we can't hear his voice or sense his presence, nevertheless he is still there leading us, though in an almost unnoticeable

manner, we must sustain a very strong personal fellowship with him.

* To stand strong alone, you do not do so by intentionally separating yourself from the body of Christ, that is suicidal. You just keep building up your Spirit man and being Disciplined, do not even bother about being separated or standing alone, there are definite seasons which have been orchestrated for each person to stand alone, only that when such seasons come be sure that you are edified and Disciplined enough to stand strong, scriptures say " After doing all to stand, STAND THEREFORE ! " .

Always ensure that the fire upon your altar never goes out, this is very crucial, feed that fire always, that will keep you strong and able to stand alone when the season comes.

" The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out. "
(Lev 6:13)

Let Us Pray ;

- I receive grace Lord to stand alone and stand strong.

- I cry Fresh fire upon my altar Oh God.

CHAPTER SEVEN

#7 GOALS AND CONFESSIONS

This is another Principle in consistency which seems to be insignificant but has a strong ability to keep a believer consistent in his or her walk with God.

GOALS

A goal can be referred to as a result that one attempts to achieve. It is a vision that one has seen and works towards achieving. Being intentional about goals keeps us consistent in our walk with God, however the irony is that most believers do not even set goals for themselves, some set goals but do so only with respect to business, academics and other areas of life but do not set spiritual goals whereas the spiritual realm is the mother and master realm, some others still set spiritual goals, but the problem is that they don't set " How to achieve such goals ", neither did they apply the requisite discipline to achieving it. I will show us a way to go about goals such that it is practically achievable. I do not believe in the type of " New year resolutions " which many of us do, resolutions which are made and before the end of 7 days we have begun to seriously slack on them, such resolutions are borne out of the euphoria of the season, that one is about to enter a new year and desires to do better, " you do not achieve goals by desire or euphoria, you achieve them by being intentional ".

" And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry,

wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. " (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

In achieving goals, you do not just make mental wishes about what you intend to achieve or say you have them in your head, you have to write them down somewhere that is very easily accessible, maybe at the back of a book you make use of a lot or in a new book purposed for it and kept at a place it can easily catch your attention. In writing the goals, you could decide to follow this pattern ;

* Write down your life goals ; in writing down your life goals it must be with respect to your God-designed purpose for being on Earth. This requires that you must have understood your purpose. If you have an issue with understanding Purpose, I refer to you books such as " Purpose driven life " by Rick Warren, various books on purpose and Potentials by Dr. Myles Munroes, and an audio message " Walking in Purpose " by Apostle Joshua Selman, these will most definitely aid you in understanding and discovering your life's purpose. Understanding your purpose is what gives direction and meaning to your life on Earth, outside it, every other thing you do is vanity, so it is very crucial you understand it.

* Write down your goals for five years from now; you should write down what you intend to have achieved in five years time and the rule is that it " MUST " be in alignment with your life goals. In setting the five years goal, be realistic, do not write down things that are illogical or unreasonable. For instance, if you desire to be a medical doctor and you are currently in 100 level, one of your " 5 year goals " should be that you would be in 600 level/final year by then with a very strong CGPA, this is realistic, rather than saying that in 5 years you should be a medical doctor already, which is totally unrealistic, unless you're referring to being a Native Doctor.

" Write down your goals for the present year ; write down what you intend to have achieved by the end of the current year you are in. Note that

in writing these goals, they must be all encompassing ; must include spiritual goals, academic goals, marital, financial, skill acquisition, e.t.c. Also note that all goals are important and to be each given serious attention, if not then they shouldn't have been among your goals.

* Put down in writing how you intend to achieve the goals set for the current year ; This is where most people miss it, they just set goals but don't write down how it is to be achieved. See, it's not by magic, it is worked out. For each of the current year goals you put down you must write down practically workable steps to be taken towards achieving them, i.e one of your goals is that you intend to be very consistent spiritually by year end, in writing down how to achieve that, you could put down the principles contained in this book, where you need to be specific on what to do you do so.

* You take a disciplined approach towards the goals ; Ensure to go over them at least twice in a month , this keeps you vision strong and energizes you to keep at it. Prioritize the goals to any other thing, be so intentional about them that on a daily basis you do things pertaining to the accomplishment of the goals before attending to leisure or fun time.

* Try as much as possible to make the goals compressed whilst containing very important goals ; avoid writing many pages on the goals. Just put down summarized forms of each goal, such that you can take a glance at them and picture it all in your head within a minute. Nevertheless, take time to meditate strongly on the goals often to check your progress on them, where you should applaud yourself and where you need to do better. Make adjustments to the goals when and where necessary because events could change as time flies nevertheless let the original Purpose of each goal be maintained, only the pattern to achieving it may be changed.

* Most importantly, while writing the goals, involve the partnership and

direction of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are declarations and assertions we make based on our beliefs and convictions. As you set goals, try as much as possible to make positive confessions pertaining to such goals.

There is a mystery to confessions which we need to understand.

" You will have to live with the consequences of EVERYTHING YOU SAY " (Proverbs 18:10 GNV)

This shows us how powerful our words can be, it is such that it can affect our consistency. So we must always endeavor to speak positive words to ourselves.

" BY THE FRUIT OF THY WORDS SHALL BE THE FILL OF THE BELLY, and but the works of thy hands shall a man be rewarded " (Proverbs 18:20)

This is another version of the same scripture quote, let us begin from the second sentence, it says a man shall be rewarded by the work of his hands, but then the first sentence says it is by the fruit of the same man's words that he shall have his belly filled, in other words shall he be satisfied. This reveals to us that when we work towards a thing, we can be rewarded with respect to how much effort we have put in not how much we desire to be rewarded, but then if we back up the works with positive confessions, it has a way of bringing a satisfying reward to us. This is because words spoken are a result of thoughts that have formed strongly in the mind, and this reveals our beliefs and convictions. So when we speak such words consistently in faith, the Angels ride on the energy created by such words to bring about the rewards we desire. So our words are very powerful.

Paying close attention to goals and confessions can have a strong impact in our consistency level, we must be intentional towards them.

Let Us Pray ;

- Lord, help me to understand my life's Purpose.
- Holy Ghost, inspire and direct me in setting practical goals.
- I begin to confess positive pertaining to all aspects of my life.

CHAPTER EIGHT

DEAD MEN MUST ARISE.

In our walk with God, especially with respect to the coming End-time revival, there is a dire need for the rise of dead men. It sounds ironical, but is of a great truth, God seek the rise of dead men, men who have died to their passions, to their desires, their ambitions and all, men of whom the only language they know and understand is that of the Spirit, men who can and always say " Speak Lord for thy servant listens".

Friends, it takes death to produce life, no wonder St. Paul said in 2 Cor 4:12 " *This means that DEATH IS AT WORK IN US, so that life may be at work in you* ". It is the mystery of Death and life, that death finds expression in our flesh such that we no longer obey, submit, act by or respond to impulses from the flesh, rather the life of the Holy Spirit, the " ZOE " of God finds expression through us and works good for others.

The reason past Revivals died is because it was carried or passed on to men/people who were not dead enough to host it. You can bring down Revival through Prayer men, but it takes Dead men to sustain and pass on a revival. So in the coming revival, there is a dire need for dead men to arise, men who no longer respond to the impulses of the flesh. If we must be fully consistent, we must come to that point where death in it's purity has been worked into our Flesh, such that every leading and desire of the Holy Spirit is not hindered by our flesh. God seeks dead men, only such men can he entrust nations to. Death to flesh is the peak of our consistency.

Coming to the point of death is about faithfully keeping every principle stated in this book, it is a culmination of Discipline, Prayer, Word Study, Brokenness, sensitivity, being led of the Holy Ghost, complete consecration

to the will of God, e.t.c. Doing all these faithfully over time brings us to the point where we become totally dead to the impulses of the Flesh and fixated upon Christ, and continuously fixing our gaze upon Christ keeps the flesh dead.

We must strive to die to our flesh, because except a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain, but If it does die, it produces bountiful results.

Let Us Pray ;

- Help me die oh Lord to the inclinations of my flesh.

- I die to my fleshly desires Lord.

CHAPTER NINE

A CHARGE TO BE CONSISTENT !

Looking at the Epoch we are, the end of all things, the end time. We greatly await the greatest Revival to ever occur on Earth. Smith wigglesworth gave a prophecy as he hugged Lester sumrall, he said " I see a generation, a generation so great and mighty of which our works compared to theirs will be a complete step out of the box " .

We are the generation that wigglesworth prophesied about, but then we are yet to match up even half to what these great Generals did during their days. We await a revival that will be unbroken, one that will arise and not die down unlike those of old, one that we will maintain till the Lord Jesus comes.

God is still seeking Men he will assign to positions in the coming revival, the End-time army. Do not be deceived by the so many Churches and great Men of God around us, believe me when I say God is still in the business of searching for men, men who have left all to follow him, men who have chosen to remain at the backside of the desert, at the cave of adullam till the master deems fit to call them out. Men who are more concerned about the heart of the Father than about anything else, men whose desires and Will have been sacrificed on the altar of Alignment and all they can think of is the desire and Will and burden of the Father, Men who have sworn to an oath that till the last drop of their blood, till the last ounce of air they breathe, till the last cell in their body dies off, they must ensure that the kingdom comes. Men who are consistent in their walk with God, men who have died to all things, only alive to God.

It's not too late to join this army today, Destiny calls, please respond today, GET OUT of the valley of laziness and come into the mountain of consistency where men are built into gods, where mortals become immortals, where natural becomes divine, where we are forged into battle-axes fit for the master's use.

" Oh Cyprus of Persia, THOU ART MY BATTLE-AXE, MY WEAPON OF WAR, WITH YOU I BEAT DOWN NATIONS.." this is the cry of the Spirit to you today. It is time to repent of laziness and become up and doing in our walk with God, it is time to begin engaging those deadly fasts, let your flesh become lean it doesn't matter, pray those prayers, study that Bible, give up that life of sin and embrace Holiness, consecrate your life entirely to the will of God, cut-off from those friends and demonic atmosphere, do all that is required of you, that the fire upon your altar never goes out, NEVER EVER !. Take the decision today. BE CONSISTENT !!!.

Let Us Pray ;

- I receive grace Lord to be consistent in my walk with you.
- I receive grace to put into practice all I've learnt from this book.
- Let fresh fire oh Lord, fall upon my altar.

(Note; Be sure that reading this book without practicing it's principles will only attain you knowledge, but not Consistency. You have to work at it's principles to achieve positive results. Also, read this book as many times as possible, till it becomes a tangible reality in your life, moreover, write out the principles in a sheet of paper and stick it somewhere you cannot resist gazing at always, God bless you)

" Till Revivals Invade Us.....We Tarry "

FEEDBACK

If you were blessed through this book, please do get back to us ; share your experience and testimonies, and if you feel you need further help also, we are available.

For Youth-oriented retreats, seminars, prayer meetings, revival meetings, crusades, e.t.c, contact us ;

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ABOUT THE BOOK

FIRE FOR CONSISTENCY is a book that was birthed out of a Burden to see believers Consistent in their walk with God.

Consistency is very crucial in our walk with God. For a believer to be an effective tool In the hand of God, he/she must sustain a life of Spiritual Consistency, unfortunately a very large number of believers today struggle with inconsistency. A lot has been said about the need for consistency, but very little has been said on HOW TO attain Spiritual consistency.

This is a book that handles the topic of spiritual consistency by providing workable principles that guarantee consistency if kept, also it is designed to impact into the life of readers the requisite fire needed to be Consistent.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Stanley Chukwuemeka Okolie hails from Imo State Nigeria. He is a minister of the Gospel in the Catholic Church, an active member of the Teaching ministry of the CCRN, who has also served in the Healing and Deliverance ministry for some years before being co-opted into the teaching ministry.

He is a Revivalist, Preacher and Teacher of the Gospel of Christ, his heart cry is to see revivals in his day as was in the days of the early Church, to see young Christians burning for God and carrying that fire into everything they do; their academics, job, family, social media, peer groups, government, e.t.c.

He is currently a student of the University of Ibadan, studying for a B.sc. in Psychology.