



CHANGE YOUR BELIEFS,

Change Your Experiences
...the supernatural power of beliefs

Benson Akhigbe II

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INTRODUCTION

A belief that says that “we are human beings trying to have a spiritual experience” is limiting to our operation on earth. This is not how we are supposed to engage this world but we should engage this world by believing that we are first and foremost a spirit, living in a natural body, seeing and hearing from the spirit realm.

This is how the greatest teacher (Jesus Christ) lived when He was on earth. Jesus brought to our world a set of beliefs that existed in His own world. This is why anytime Jesus experienced a situation that does not exist in His own world, He superimposed the superior reality of His own world on that situation whether a deaf or mute situation, financial situation, corrupt situation, etc. No wonder He always responded to some questions asked by saying “from the very beginning it was not so”.

Believers in Jesus Christ can operate the way He operated while He was on earth and even higher (as pronounced on us by Jesus Himself in John 14:12) if only we can let go of some lies that we have believed and embrace the truth of God’s Word. Many believers have a mental agreement of what God’s Word says but have not experienced the reality of the truth, so the truth has not taken a firm root in their heart and has also not renewed their minds. When our minds are not renewed by the truth of God’s Word, then our minds can only be renewed by the lies of the enemy. This then means that we would start declaring with our mouths what our unrenewed mind believes to be truth. Since the power of life and death is in our tongue we would start experiencing the reality of our beliefs whether good or bad as we make declarations.

For us to start experiencing life in our situation we must start declaring what heaven is saying concerning our situation and for us to start declaring what heaven is saying we must start renewing our minds on a daily basis with the truth of God’s Word. The journey of our lives is determined by a set of our key beliefs. These beliefs are either a playground for the enemy of our soul or a stronghold of God’s purposes for our lives. This book will help you not only to believe in Jesus (which will guarantee you a place in eternity) but will also

help you believe like Jesus (which will make you reign in life and bring the reality of the Kingdom Of God to our visible world).

Happy reading!

CHAPTER 1: THE PATHWAY TO DOMINION AND ABUNDANCE

Your experiences will always catch up with your beliefs. – Benson Akhigbe II

God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! – **Genesis 1:28 (The Message Bible)**

The first word God ever spoke to man was a blessing, this blessing can also be translated as “empowered to be in charge.” We have a Father “*who delights in the prosperity of His servant*” (Psalm 35:27 New American Standard Bible). From the first chapter of the Bible, it is obvious that God wants His sons and daughters to rule on the earth and bring prosperity over everything and everyone. Why then, do we still experience poverty in all its four dimensions (spiritual, material, relational and intellectual) today? I believe that this is because we cease to seek the presence of God. When God’s presence leaves a person or a nation, they become like a beautiful flower that is cut off from its source; it eventually withers and dies. But the verse begins with a blessing “And God blessed them...” This means that it all begins with God, and for us to see real transformation, we need to reconnect with Him – *Our Source*.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. – **Psalms 105:4**

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. **Proverbs 8:17**

To Seek the Lord means to seek His presence. “Presence” is a common translation of the Hebrew word “face.” Literally, we are to seek His “face.” This is the Hebraic way to have access to God; to be before His face is to be in His presence. The presence of God is the greatest treasure every person ought to seek, not money. If a person has all the money in the world but lacks the presence of God, that person is very poor. Imagine if a fish possesses everything in the ocean but lacks the very water it needs for survival. That is how it is with any person on earth that lives without the presence of God.

Poverty, contrary to what many people think, is not an economic problem but a soulish and spiritual one. This means that what we need in order to address poverty is more than just economic strategies. First of all, we need

to ask ourselves what created the form of systemic poverty that is prevalent today, because the problems we encounter today is more than the result of the actions of a few corrupt politicians. Change and transformation will begin when the presence of God permeates every facet of our society. Christians have the responsibility to lead this change. Only then will our society see reformation and restoration of glory. According to a research conducted in 2006 by Disciple Nation Alliance:

South Korea has become one of the world's most technologically advanced and digitally-connected countries. It has the highest number of broadband internet connections per capita in the world and is a global leader in computer games, digital displays, and mobile phones. Today, its standard of living is equal to that of many countries in Western Europe.

This remarkable economic and social development can be traced directly to the spiritual and cultural transformation of the nation. From the revival in 1907 the percentage of Christians today in the country is the highest of any religious group with 27%.

Biblical values permeate government policy and have produced the engine that has driven transformational development of Korea, particularly in regards to its economic development. This phenomenal development of South Korea is often called the "Miracle on the Han River."

Biblical transformation can be defined as the process of restoration to God's intentions, all that was broken when man rebelled against God in the Fall, (God's agenda is to restore all things to Himself). A transformed nation is a community whose people and institutions have been overrun by the Kingdom of God. South Korea still has not reached restoration. Transformation is in process as reflected in transformational indicators.

As I write this, I am reminded of the terror that insurgents and rebel groups are inflicting on Nations around the world; my country Nigeria is not an

exception due to the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents. A couple of months ago, the Lord revealed to us that *their activities were mere distractions* and will soon be a thing of the past. As I continued to meditate on that encounter, the Lord revealed to me a bigger problem - *the negative confessions* of the people. I believe my country Nigeria will be a great nation because *I am here!* This would probably appear to be a bogus statement, but I believe the word of God that says “***I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none***” (Ezekiel 22:30). God is not looking for many righteous men to stand in the gap, he needs just one man. And I know that my country has more than one righteous man; this is the confidence that I have. God has placed us as His Royal Ambassadors in our different spheres of influence and mandated us to bring down the reign of Heaven to the earth as He originally intended in Genesis 1:28.

The Glorious Reign of Christ's Church

..I will build my church and the gate of hades, will not overcome it. –
Matthew 16:18

The Greek word which was translated as Church is the word ‘ecclesia’ which can also be translated as socio-political legislators. It is evident from studying the Greek words found in the New Testament, that the pattern which God intends His people to follow and live by is the ECCLESIA system, and it is RADICALLY different from that which we call "church" in our day.

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica:

In the New Testament, "ecclesia" (signifying convocation) is the only single word used for church. It (ecclesia) was the name given to the governmental assembly of the city of Athens, duly convoked (called out) by proper officers and possessing all political power including even juridical functions.

The success of the Roman Empire in Jesus' time rested on the strategy for conquering cities and establishing their reign. When the Romans for example conquered a city, they never took the people away from that city to

Rome such that the conquered land is left desolate, rather, they sent a group of Romans to the conquered land to govern the people and to ensure that the people and the city completely reflected the culture of Rome. These people were called the *ecclesia*.

So, 'church' in the actual sense of the word is not about structures and buildings, but about *people*. Many people refer to the church as the auditorium where people worship so it is common to hear people say "let us go to *church*," but as far as Jesus is concerned the church is about people. God has given us a responsibility as his church (people) to shape the culture of our societies and make them reflect the culture of Heaven.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. -
Matthew 6:10 (New King James Version)

Our assignment is to transform the government, economy, media, arts, education and every other sphere of our societies. Why did Jesus come? He came with His kingdom, the kingdom of God, to invade the kingdom of Satan for the sole purpose of regaining the dominion of God's creation that was lost in the Garden of Eden. The Holy Spirit is now speaking to the hearts of God's people to do what it takes to transform society, segment by segment, until God's kingdom is seen on earth as it is in heaven.

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. – **Matthew 5:14 (New King James Version)**

The prophetic destiny of the church is to be the catalyst of change in the society, but today we hardly meet up with this responsibility and one of the major reasons we are not meeting up to the expectation placed on us by our Lord and King is our belief system. Jesus always told people, "be it unto you according to your faith." No matter what the prophetic destiny of the church, individuals or nation is, it will always gravitate towards their beliefs.

Correcting Belief Systems

Little wonder that the first message Jesus ever preached on earth was, "*Repent for the kingdom of God is near*," (Matthew 4:17). The word "to repent" in Greek is translated as *metanoeó* meaning, "changed after *being*

with,” or “think differently *after*,” or literally, “*think* differently afterwards.” Jesus came to enact a new covenant or a new way of living between God and man, and He knew that for this to be implemented, He needed to change their belief system.

A lot of people wonder why their circumstances have not changed, and they blame it on a number of factors. The truth is until you change your belief system your circumstances will not change because your circumstances are a *reflection* of your beliefs. This also applies to the situation plaguing the Nations of the world today. A lot of people think that the basic change that every country needs is political change. What they fail to realize is that every political administration is made up of a group of individuals who also have unique belief systems. The basic change every system, institution, individual or nation needs is mental transformation, not simply political change (or any other kind of change for that matter). If we can change our belief system, our situation will respond accordingly. *Your experiences will always catch up with your beliefs!*

Changing our experiences can only come about when our beliefs about ourselves and our Nation/environment changes. Change begins by turning to God. This is so important to me, because it is the foundation of the successful life God intended for His children – the life of dominion.

CHAPTER 2: BELIEFS – THE AUTOPILOT OF YOUR LIFE

The kingdom of God does not advance by good conduct, it advances by good beliefs. –
Steve Backlund

Grasshopper Mentality vs. Giant Mentality

They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." – **Number 13:27-33**

How these Israelites came to this conclusion still baffles me. Without asking the sons of Anak, they concluded on their own that *they* were like grasshoppers before them. A careful look at verse 33 shows that they came to that conclusion based on how they saw themselves in the first place- "we seemed like grasshoppers in *our own eyes*," is a very loaded statement. What would have happened if the ten spies saw themselves instead as the *giants and the sons of Anak as the grasshoppers*? Our experiences will always catch up with our beliefs. We can fast and pray about our experiences, but we may never see a change in our experiences until there is a right change of our beliefs.

It is very important for us to grasp this understanding because we can pray and fast for a change in our circumstances and not see the change we desire, because the condition of our hearts have not yet been transformed. Just as the Israelites had the same set of beliefs – believing the lie that the giants were more powerful than Yahweh – we can still suffer oppression from giants in our lives, families or communities. If our circumstances change only for a season, I guarantee you that they will quickly shrink to the size of our beliefs. What takes place on your inside plays a more significant role than your external reality. This perspective can change our entire lives.

The Person with the Greatest Hope Wins

Every area of your life that is not beaming with hope is an indication that you believe a lie in that particular area, which has become a stronghold for the devil to use against you. Many believers have for long given the devil permission to rule their lives by giving him the right of access and to have a foothold in their lives; wrong beliefs and lies give him that access. For instance, some believers accept consciously, subconsciously and unconsciously that a curse is more powerful than a blessing. For instance, if a believer who does not know the power that lies within were to enter an occultic house that supposedly has terrific “powers”, they may start pleading the blood of Jesus or perform the sign of the cross out of fear. It is a faulty belief system that will cause a king to operate like a pauper.

In Nigeria, most people believe that our national football team is inefficient, yet we want them to win. We were the first nation to get a goalless draw in the 2014 FIFA World Cup, yet we criticized and insulted the coach and the players. Ironically, many of the critics cannot jog for 15 minutes. We cannot speak negativity over our nation and expect the nation to change, because our negative words are only an indication that our belief system has not [yet] changed.

Childlikeness Opens the Father's Heart

Your spirit and your soul are the auto-pilots of your life, and as long as your soul does not change or become transformed, you may decide to go in a particular direction and everything *within* you would be leading you to the other direction. I strongly believe that we do not need a new set of circumstances but we need a new set of beliefs. The kingdom of God does not advance by good conduct, it advances by good beliefs. For instance, in the area of finances, you should look inwards and ask, "Why do I *really* tithe and give my offering?" God drills down into our souls to find out our true intents. You cannot give to kingdom causes with a *pauper mindset* and expect a large harvest. The true purpose of giving is not because God needs our money rather, He wants to change us and the state of our hearts and souls, because "the purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives" (Deut. 14:23-24 The Living Bible).

Think about the loving relationship that plays out between a mother and her precious child. No matter how beautiful the child may look, that child cannot do basic chores for the mother, but would puke and litter the entire nursery. Why? Because that is what all infants do! I can bet that if you asked that mother whether she loves her child in spite of the mess, her answer would be, "absolutely!" Similarly, the Bible calls us children of God (John 1:3; 1 John 3:1; 2 Corinthians 6:18). And as children, we don't have to do anything for our Heavenly Father to be loved and accepted; we already are! Maturity in the kingdom of God is not by our conduct, but by becoming *childlike*. It is not in the hours we spend in prayer or the dollars we give to his work (by all means, these are good!), but it is in us *becoming* as children of Father God. *We are loved by God!* As long as we believe that, the devil cannot stop us. Like a baby who cries to the Mother and she gives attention, when we call out to the Father, with the right beliefs, He inclines his ears to hear us!

What You Believe Is What You See

What you believe will always come to you; it is just a matter of time. The Bible says, “Be it unto you according to your faith (*belief*),” (Mathew 9:29). If you believe that Satan has the power to cause you harm or inflict pain on you, then, that is what you will experience. A lot of *believers* say that God is good, but are still afraid of Satan. What a contradictory belief! It is also possible to change your location without changing your beliefs. A goat transported from the rural area to an urban city will still behave like a goat nonetheless.

In his letter to the Romans, Apostle Paul wrote:

“may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit?” (Roman 15:13).

Joy and peace flow to you when you have the right beliefs and your affections are set on God. Also, the peace of God would guide your heart (Philippians 4:7), even in the midst of tough circumstances. Let your heart be anchored on these scriptures, because it is a futile exercise to attempt to change your circumstances without changing your beliefs. The way of the kingdom is always the opposite of the way of the world (earthly systems). Scriptures command us to declare the opposite of what the earthly facts tell us. “*Let the weak say, I am strong,*” (Joel 3:10). The Bible did not say let the weak whose situation has changed say, “I am strong,” rather we are to speak what heaven is saying irrespective of what the facts are.

It is also possible to make positive declarations, but even these are ineffective if the words that come out from your mouth are not *aligned* with the state of your heart. Jesus knew the importance of a change in belief system when he said,

“for out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). He went to say, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46).

That means, our behavior is directly proportional to the state (condition) of our hearts, and we must guard our hearts with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life (see Proverbs 4:23). Remember, whatever happens to you is a result of the state of your belief, which is already set on auto-pilot.

When you have the wrong set of beliefs, you will be unable to accept the good and pleasurable things your Heavenly Father wants to bring your way. It will cause you to believe that the good things happening in your life may not last because of the experiences of your past that has left deep wounds in your soul. I am somewhat puzzled with the way we read the promises of the Father. One of such is in Psalm 23:6: “Surely goodness and love will follow me *all the days of my life*, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Not *some days or seasons* of my life, but ALL! That’s a mentality to carry around, even when the facts on the ground indicate the opposite! Do not allow your circumstances define who you are. Everything you experience is a result of your beliefs. *Who do you think you are?*

CHAPTER 3: THE CORE VALUES OF A RENEWED MIND

I am loved by the father who is not moved by my behaviour or my performance. His love for me is constant. – Benson Akhigbe II

When the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was introduced to Nigeria in the mid-1980s, the voice of poverty was subtly released into the atmosphere of the nation. Beverages, canned foods and other fast-moving consumer goods gradually left the shelves of the homes of the middle-class and the poor. Wives (who were nurses) left for Saudi Arabia to “find work”, daughters were sent to Europe for prostitution (or “hustle”), sons brought cars from abroad by any means possible to sell and use, homes were shattered and values were broken because of the voice of lack that prevailed in the land.

It was at that time that apostles (revivalists) like the Archbishop Benson Idahosa (of blessed memory) rose up with a message of prosperity in the midst of lack. He went about peaching, “my God is not a poor God!” As a result of the damage in the people’s souls caused by poverty, they threw stones at him branded him as lavish and flamboyant. Why? They *believed* that God was not a God of prosperity and abundance. Nothing was wrong with “Papa Idahosa,” he only read the scriptures and had his mind *renewed* (Romans 12:2); he understood that Jesus was never stranded financially in his ministry, so why should he?

The problem was not with God, the real issue was who they thought their source was. If jobs become our source, what happens when there is downsizing and the job is taken away? Think about the illustration of the mother and child from the previous chapter: the baby does nothing to receive the love, care and attention from the parent. If that baby is sick, the parents are sent into panic mode until the child recovers. If the baby does not sleep, the parents will also not sleep. If our earthly parents can be that dedicated to their children, how much more our Father in heaven?

*If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate?
As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least
decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who*

*conceived you in love will be even better? – **Matthew 7:10-11 The Message Bible***

You Are Loved By an Extravagant Father

He calls you the “apple of His eyes” (Psalms 17:8; Zechariah 2:8), the very hairs on your head are numbered by Him (Luke 12:7), and He knows you by name (Isaiah 43:1). Jesus knew this even though what he had in his hands (five loaves and two fish) was not commensurate with his need (five thousand men besides women and children). He gave thanks and *looked up* to His Father who is extravagant in His love. The moment he did that, the abundance came (Matthew 14:13-21). Walking in abundance is a mindset!

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. – **Romans 12:2 New Living Translation***

In this fast-paced economy, nearly everything is done in a hurry. There is a *new* model, an *upgraded* version every second. Things move so fast that we barely catch our breath before the next fad comes along. Even the church today is always looking for the *next big thing*. We preach against patience and endurance, undermining the truth the Bible says about letting patience have its full course, “not lacking anything” (James 1:3). You find immature, nominal Christians who run from “pillar to post” looking for material breakthroughs, when breakthrough, goodness and mercy should ordinarily follow them! We can hardly experience all that the Father has for us unless we change our beliefs. We will hardly walk in the supernatural normally until we change the wrong mindsets that hold us bound.

I am loved by the Father who is not moved by my behaviour or my performance. His love for me is *constant*. I pray to Him not for Him to love me; I pray because I am loved by Him and that is what lovers do. I give my tithe and offerings because He loves me. I come to fellowship with other believers because He loves me. That is the mentality of kingdom royalty!

The following are four core values (I learnt this from Bill Johnson) that will transform your mind and your life.

God Is Good and He Is Always In A Good Mood

God is in love with you. Think about that for a minute. You must always remember that God is not mad at you but that He is madly in love with you, because He is a good God. You may think I write and speak too much about the love of God and not enough about sin and judgment and hell. You may think that I am unbalanced, unsound, and a little bit crazy. Nonetheless, I am confident that God will raise up other unbalanced, unsound, and crazy people to cry with me the French Easter liturgy:

L'amour de Dieu est folie!

L'amour de Dieu est folie!

(The love of God is folly!)

This mindset helps me a lot. Many people think God is responsible for allowing evil things happen in this world. God is more often blamed for the tragedy in the world than He is given credit for the beautiful creation we see around us daily in the landscape, in a kind word, in our neighbours, or in ourselves.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. –

Psalms 136:1 (italics mine)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. –

Romans 8: 28

God weaves everything together for good for His children. Before the foundation of the world to the day of Christ's return, His goodness will never end for His love is forever and everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3; Lamentations 3:22-23). Even when the circumstances in my life and the promises in the Bible do not match up, like Job, I will still trust Him (Job 13:15). I will not cut off kingdom activities when I cannot pay my bills or when I am going through the pressures of life. Why? Because I know that no matter the circumstances (whether good or bad), it will end in my favour. This core value will revolutionize your life.

If you lack this mindset, you may hardly lead a victorious Christian life. The goodness of God does not guarantee you comfort and convenience all the

days of your life. The goodness of God, however, implies that whatever happens in your life will definitely work out for your good, because He is your Father and He knows what is best for His children. Then you can “give thanks, for his love endures forever...” With this mindset, every situation you will ever face will be embraced with thanksgiving.

Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Ephesians 5:20

You may jail me or steal something valuable from me, but I know all things work together for my good. Reading Acts 16:25-34 always fuels my hope in the goodness of God. In the midst of their suffering, Paul and Silas experienced the strong presence of the Holy Spirit, filling their hearts with joy and praise. With this kind of mindset you can never backslide.

The hymn, “It Is Well with My Soul,” was written by Horatio Spafford. This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford’s life. The first was the 1871 Great Chicago Fire that ruined him financially. His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, and at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed due to business. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel and all four of Spafford’s daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, “*Saved alone ...*” Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

For more than a century, the tragic story of one man has given hope to countless thousands who have lifted their voices to sing “It Is Well with My Soul.” Having the mentality of the goodness of God will turn you into a world changer!

Nothing Is Impossible

Having the core value of the goodness of God is foundational to any person who wants to transform society. The next core value is, “Nothing is Impossible!” You can boldly declare this because you know you have a Father

who not only loves you and is always in a good mood, but one to whom nothing is impossible (Matthew 19:26).

I am consciously launching into deep waters and daring for the impossible to happen in our faith community. I am believing God for a team of people inside the church who will raise the dead to life, because nothing is impossible. The goal is to live with a *daily* appetite for risk and faith, knowing that when we step outside of our norm, we allow room for God to show up. Notice that I said *daily*; we may know how to take big risks every other time, but are we daily willing to walk in risk and faith knowing that nothing is impossible with God?

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. – Matthew 17:20

Jesus took it a notch higher; not only is nothing impossible *with* God, as His child, nothing will be impossible *for* you. I carry this with me wherever I go. A lot of people believe that our church Firm Foundation has millions of money lodged in an account somewhere. I laugh and I do not argue with them, because we know we don't depend on money in the bank, but in the inexhaustible supernatural supply of heaven. I had to de-program myself from the mentality of scarcity and lack because in my Father's house there are many mansions (John 14:2). If it were not so, He would have told me in His word.

Jesus Won Absolute Victory

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 15:57

If you can tell me the sin or sickness that the blood of Jesus did not completely pay for, I will simply ask Him to come and die a second time. We have absolute victory in Jesus! We train intercessors in our church that they should not pray *for* victory, rather, they should pray *from* victory. We are already victorious!

To walk in victory, it is important to understand what salvation means: before we were saved there was a spiritual gap between us and God. Jesus' death and resurrection closed that gap, allowing us to cross over into fellowship with God. When you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, you close that gap in your own life. God has left you an inheritance through the Cross. It is not one of sickness, loss, defeat, doubt, fear, anger, loneliness, or worry. Through the Cross, you have overcome all these things!

Being a victorious Christian is not a weekend job, it is an everyday occurrence. We may have struggles against the powers of darkness, but even then we can rest firm in the knowledge of the Truth that victory is ours. Experiencing victory in your life as a child of God has more to do with what you believe and what you say than anything else. Why? Jesus has already conquered.

What holds us back is not that God is withholding good things from us. Most of the time it is not even the devil, though he does come to steal, kill, and destroy. What keeps us from experiencing the life and the victory we were meant to enjoy is that we continue in an old way of thinking, stuck in our past failures and mistakes. If we can remember that the victory is already won, then we can look at our issues and situations with a new perspective and realize that we can experience our victory NOW!

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." –
Matthew 28:18-20

You Are Significant

You are God's own masterpiece. That means you are not ordinary or average; you are a one-of-a-kind original! When God created you, He went to great lengths to make you exactly the way He wanted you. You are not meant to be like everyone else; God designed you the way you are for a purpose. Everything about you is unique and everything about you matters. You may

feel like your life looks ordinary today, but when you understand your value –not only who you are, but also, whose you are – then you will love yourself more, and you will also love those people around you in a greater way. Realize that because you belong to Him, you are extremely valuable. King David (the Old Testament prototype of the New Testament believer) penned down many years ago on how significant he was, you can meditate on his writings:

You made my whole being; You formed me in my mother's body. I praise You because You made me in an amazing and wonderful way. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, You saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in Your book before I was one day old.” - Ps. 139:13-16 (New Century Version)

CHAPTER 4: RENEWING YOUR MIND FROM GOD'S PRESENCE

We are human beings not human doings. – Benson Akhigbe II

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." – **Luke 10:38-42***

*Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. – **John 12:2-3***

These stories tell us about two sisters, Mary and Martha (sisters of Lazarus and friends of Jesus) and how their relationship with Jesus have a lot of wisdom to teach us in tapping into the heart of intimacy with Jesus. From the accounts of Luke and John, we notice how Mary was able to save up a year's wages (or maybe her inheritance) to purchase an expensive ointment which she willingly broke at the feet of Jesus. Martha's dutifulness has its virtue, but when it came to putting first things first, "only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

The first and only thing needed for a renewed mind is hosting God's presence like Mary did. In this competitive age of performance and accomplishments, some would think just spending time in God's presence is a waste of time as opposed to going out on the streets "hustling." We believe we have to do everything *we* can to have *all* the things we desire. But the truth is, we are human *beings* not human *doings*.

Have you noticed that the most common questions asked in any social gathering these days are, "What do you do?" and "What have you accomplished?" To do (perform, act, work) are not bad *per se*, but who we *are* ultimately drives what we *do* and what we will *have*. Nicodemus came to Rabbi Jesus in the middle of the night to find out what he must *do* to have eternal life. Rather Jesus flips the script and tells him that he must first *be* before he can *do* and *have* (see John 3:1-21). God could have created man on the first day, but He chose the sixth day. I believe He did that so the first day man would wake up to would be the Sabbath, a day of rest.

There remains, then, a Sabbath — rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience — Hebrews 4:9-11

It is time for the Body of Christ to enter into His rest so that we can operate from there. The church ought to deploy men and women who will go into the marketplace and lead others to an encounter with God based on who they are (their identity). Like Mary, we must constantly shelve some activities to sit at the feet of the Master to hear and feel His heartbeat. This generation seems to be in constant state of busyness that we are too quick to start *doing* stuff that we barely take the time to listen to God. And because of this "performance trap," principles (what and how do to things) sometimes stop us from hearing God speak to us. Personally, I use to be high on principles (not that they are in themselves bad), but I must always hear from God because the principles that worked the other time may not work this time around. So I have learnt and am still learning to be "Presence" sensitive

Expertise in any field is good and necessary, but sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is the greatest advantage you will ever have. There is a level of abundance

you can only access by revelation and not expertise. Your “expertise” on how God worked in your business last year can hinder how God may choose to work this year. The written Bible is not *all* of God, for the Spirit and the letter of the Word of God must merge to bring fresh revelations to you or else it may kill you (see 2 Corinthians 3:6). This means we must never read the Word of God without the help of the Holy Spirit. Some people have taken the use of their minds to the extreme and taken their minds *away* from God. God is not at war with your mind, but with the mind that is not renewed.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:2

At the transfiguration of Jesus, the Bible recorded that His clothes and face began to shine (see Mathew 17:1-7). This is the same thing that happens to your mind when you begin to renew it with God’s Word! We cannot afford to keep living and believing the lies the enemy is always bombarding us with. We need to come to the point where we live from a renewed and elevated perspective concerning all of life. When we believe a lie, we empower that liar and the enemy is always looking for points of interjection where we can agree with him. A renewed mind pulls down false arguments (2 Cor. 10:4).

Let us examine seven beliefs that will renew our minds, and change our lives forever and set us on the pathway of reigning in life.

1. There Is Always a Solution God’s Way!

When we speak from a negative or pessimistic position, our brain immediately shuts out the possibility of any solution. I have discovered that the disappointments we face in the past create a dent in our souls that distorts our beliefs and the way we see life. This is where we need the help of the Holy Spirit to cast down arguments and wrong beliefs. It does not matter what had happened to you in the past, when you believe that there is always a solution God’s way, your brain in partnership with the Holy Spirit will begin to search out the solutions. We have the greatest search engine in the world

(not Google, but the Spirit of God) that searches the deepest parts of God living inside of us! (See 1 Cor. 2:10).

The Bible says in Luke 10:41: *"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things."*

Like Martha, what are you worried about? When we started our signature ministries, *Living Your Dreams Initiative* and *Secure the Future Initiative* to tackle the global giants of pandemic diseases, rampant illiteracy, self-serving leadership, and extreme poverty, a lot of people criticized us that we would deplete the church's accounts. But because we had a different belief system that there is always a solution God's way and nothing is impossible, these ministries are not only standing today but thriving and fulfilling their goals to transform society.

2. Every Time I Face Any Situation I Will Know What To Do!

When you face any problem with this belief system, your brain will always come out with a solution. Jesus said *"only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her"*. Most times, a bad decision made in faith can produce a better decision than a good decision made with doubt. This is why, for instance, we do not go around removing shrines dedicated to idols in people's houses, because you can physically destroy those shrines while they have not been removed from their hearts and minds rendering the destruction ineffective.

3. Anything I Do Will Always Be Successful!

Success in the kingdom of God is not what you achieve, it is who you are. If you have this belief that everything you do will always be successful no matter what other people say. The way of the kingdom is always "anti-world;" that means, we run counter culture to the world (or earthly) system. You cannot and should not score your success by what people define success as. I am not going to a place to be successful; I am only going to a place where I

will manifest my success. David declared to Saul based on this belief (I believe):

Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Sam 17:36-37

4. The Resources I Need To Do My Assignment Will Always Be Available

We had to take our entire church through a series titled *The Mentality of Royalty*, and deliberately so, because the original identity of Christians is that of royalty and our Father wants His children to begin to see life from His perspective (Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). Royalty thinks from the perspective of abundance, for instance, and never from scarcity. Your height or how far you will go is determined by the kind of mentality you possess. If you think like a pauper, your experiences will be like that of a pauper. If you think like a prince, your experiences will be like that of a prince. *As you think in your heart, so are you (Prov. 23:7).*

5. What Happened In My Past for Bad Will Always Be Used In My Future for Good

A lot of people think it is their past mistakes that have created their present predicament not knowing that in the New Covenant, Jesus took our punishment on the cross and declared that it was settled! A lot of people think God is in heaven taking note of their wrong doings and using it to judge their future. That is a big deception! Whatever mistake you have made in the past is working for your good. The Bible says all things work together for the good of them that love God and are called according to his purpose. As a child, do not run away from the arms of your loving Father, rather, run into Him. Paul alluded to this fact in his letter to the body of believers in Rome:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28 (New King James Version)

6. My Discouragement Is A Bigger Problem than What I Am Discouraged About

The very fact that you are discouraged is a bigger problem than what is discouraging you. Some husbands, for instance, are discouraged that their wives are not being submissive or living up to *their* standards. The truth of the matter is, their wives are not the problem instead their discouragement is.

I am on a Positivity Campaign! Whenever people talk about the negative issues about my country Nigeria, I always look at the positive side. This perspective has kept me balanced and positioned me to be fit for the Master's use as salt and light here.

The Bible says in Luke 10:40 that Martha was discouraged by all the preparation that had to be made. She came to him and asked "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" And the Lord replied, "You are worried and upset about many things, but *only one thing is needed.*" Rather than allowing discouragement swallow us up, let our perspective change and *focus* on the Master.

7. God Has Not Called Me to Be Realistic but Supernatural

Lastly, God has called us to an exciting and adventurous life in His presence. The supernatural means the kingdom of God manifests itself as the opposite of what the earthly realm brings our way. That means when others are saying there is a *casting down*, you will say there is a *lifting up* (Job 22:29). What do you do when you encounter a sick person in your office? What happens when your neighbours are a struggling couple? What happens when a business you know is about to shut down? A lot of people want to be realistic but God has called us to be supernatural.

When you try to be realistic, you start looking for means to *do* what you would have believed God and received an instruction for. Don't speak what

the circumstances are saying, always speak from heaven's perspective. Paul admonishes us to:

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things," (Colosians 3:2).

You will always create on your outside what you are on your inside – Benson Akhigbe II

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:1-2 NLT)

CHAPTER 5: THINKING FROM HEAVEN'S PERSPECTIVE

You will always create on your outside what you are on your inside – Benson Akhigbe II

It is a very big mistake to believe that God is at war with us using our minds: to think, to perceive, to conceptualize, to reason, and to dream. God created the mind and put it inside every one of us for a purpose. However, God is at war with your *unrenewed* mind. Thinking – the alert, meticulous, probing, logical, critical use of the mind – will be a highway either to godliness or to its opposite, depending on how it is done. This is why Paul admonished us to renew our minds, for the unrenewed mind can be an obstacle to the “move of God” or what God is blessing and wants to bless in your life. God speaks to our hearts (spirit, inner man), but we still need the mind to process and churn out the revelations and instructions from our Father. Paul also urged Timothy to think carefully, “for the Lord will give you understanding in everything” (2 Tim. 2:7). The author of Proverbs urges careful thought in order to find “silver” and “hidden treasure,” which are then defined as the “fear of the Lord” and “the knowledge of God.”

Some time ago, secularly-minded philosophers and scientists took the mind to an extreme by propounding theorems that elevates the mind as the only factor that humanity needs for survival. The Pentecostal movement came in the scene, in a bid to correct this error, to say that the mind was evil and was not needed. Paul corrects this by saying:

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. – Rom. 12:1-2 NLT

Before Apostle Paul got to this chapter in the book of Romans he talked about some very important topics like sanctification, justification, our right as believers etc. But in the twelfth chapter he began talking about the application of all he has been talking about from chapter one. I used the New Living Translation because I believe it made this verse a little clearer. A lot of people believe (erroneously) that God's will is in three forms: the *good*, *pleasing* and *permissible* will when actually it is one and same. Which means

that the will of God is good, permissible, and perfect. This clarification is very important.

How do you seek out God's will? God does not want you to *strive* so hard to know His will for you. Jesus prayed a very simple prayer, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). This is the will of the Father: *on earth as it is in heaven*. What do you see when you look into heaven? Do you see poverty, diseases, displaced children, divorces and corrupt politicians there? No! What is in heaven? That is God's will for earth.

When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed – Psalm 126:1

People marvelled when the Lord restored and reformed the nation of Israel. They wanted to know how this happened! Now, as believers with renewed minds, we can take that prophecy and begin to see the nations in our time through that lens: that reformation is possible in our day! I cannot look at what God has done in the past and say that He cannot do it in my time. If I can do that, then I will be violating His will for nations. Scriptures says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

It is no surprise that the first message of John the Baptist was "repent for the kingdom of God is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). And then when Jesus began preaching, he said that "the kingdom of God is now here" (Matthew 4:17). In its most practical form, to repent meant to go back to the penthouse ("re" – return to; "pent" – penthouse). To ever flourish in life and become successful, we must begin to conform our thinking to that of heaven. What realm are you thinking from?

This applies to every aspect of our lives. If we do not think from heaven, we may begin to struggle from a defeatist mode. The Bible says we are more than conquerors because Jesus conquered death and now gave to us the victory. So when we are praying, we are not praying *for* victory instead we are praying *from* victory. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places and that is a place of victory.

It is common for people, especially in regions where diabolical powers are in display, to think that a curse is more powerful than a blessing. And they then to become terrified when a voodoo servant places a curse on them. Though they claim to "believe" that God is good, they are still afraid of the devil. It is important at this point to stop reading and asking yourself, "What/who is shaping my perspective?"

The anchor scripture (Rom. 12:2 NLT) says we should allow God transform us by changing the *way* we think not *what* we think. There are prevalent ways people, especially of different countries, think. Some might tilt towards intellectualism and others towards superstition. Some of us believe that it is not proper to sweep at night, or that it is bad for a baby to gaze at the mirror. Don't laugh! There are people who believe that. What is even more surprising is that a lot of Christians still have their thinking shaped by these prevalent beliefs. We are believers but our thinking is not being shaped by the kingdom of heaven but our customs and culture.

It is time we demonstrate what the Word of God says. If we really believe that the Word of God that says that signs shall follow all that believes then we should go into our spheres of influence and begin to lay hands on people knowing fully well that what you don't actually practice you don't actually believe.

Wearing the Lens of Sonship

Earlier we had established the truth that when Jesus said "Repent," He meant that we should go back to our position in Him and begin to wear the goggle of a son of God. That is what true repentance does for us. Repentance produces a shift in the way we think and in the way we see reality. When people say let's face reality I ask them "What is your reality?" I ask this because every single person can their very different views that forms their reality.

We can have one situation but two realities. For example, Jesus had over five thousand people to feed and had just five loaves of bread and two fishes *yet* He asked the people to sit down. Two people can pray for a financial breakthrough of one million dollars and someone gives you ten thousand dollars, one might be full of gratitude because it is a pointer that the remaining part is coming while the other might complain that it is not enough. You see that it the same situation but two realities; one is operating from the lens of a son and the other from the lens an orphan. The lens I am writing about is simply our beliefs. One of the beliefs of a son is that God is able to make all grace a bound towards me and having all sufficiency can abound unto good works.

When the Impossible Looks Logical

One basic way to know that your mind is renewed is when the impossible world looks logical to you. We have amazing teachers in our children's church who intentionally teach them from a very young age that *nothing is impossible*! I believe if we have this kind of mindset in this country a lot of things will change and one of the changes is that there will be breakthroughs in area of research and development. One basic reason why we do not have many researchers in various fields from around this region is because there is a wrong belief that it is *impossible* to have breakthroughs that will change the world from here.

If the impossible does not look logical then your mind is not renewed. This is how transformation takes place inside us: Faith does not come to your mind it comes to your heart. And a renewed mind enhances faith because when God speaks to you, He speaks to your heart and it cannot come to reality if your mind is not renewed enough to tap into what God is saying. When God speaks, it takes a renewed mind to bring it to reality.

God has not called us to be realistic, He has called us to be supernatural. That is why He calls those things which be not as though they were (Rom. 4:17) and this is the more reason we are called to be prophetic which is of two forms: *foretelling* and *forth-telling*. Foretelling is predicting what will happen in the future, while forth-telling is to create it and we have now become *co-creators* with God. I have always said that real power is not present with the politicians [alone] but with the believers. People like Nehemiah, Esther, Joseph, Daniel were operating from this realm. If it took a cupbearer named Nehemiah with the backing of God to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, God can *and* will raise a man to cause reformation and transformation in this country by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Power of a Renewed Mind

And as they watched, his appearance changed so that his face shone like the sun and his clothing became dazzling white. Matt 17:2 TLB

You don't need to be a king or ruler before you begin to change the culture around you. The basic thing you need is a renewed mind. Jesus' transfiguration is a representation of what the renewed mind looks like: *dazzling*!

The reason why we call a nation developed and another underdeveloped is because of the mind of the people in that nation. For example, what do you think will happen in ten years if we bring Americans to Nigeria and then take Nigerians to America and let them settle for the next ten years? Please note that a man will always create on the outside what he has on his inside.

God has blessed us with all blessing in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3), but our access to this blessing is a renewed mind. When you begin to think like Jesus, believing that whatever is available in heaven is available to you, then that will be your experience. This is true because we are joint-heirs with Christ so whatever is available to Christ is available to you (Rom. 8:17).

*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5***

Your thought life will either undermine faith or enhance faith. There is a difference between what is in your possession and what is in your account. Your account says God has blessed you with all spiritual blessing in the heavenly places but we cannot tap into this unless we renew our mind. When you begin to think and speak in this line, in accordance to God's will, then we will begin to see the manifestation in our lives.

Serving With a Renewed Mind

When I look at Genesis chapter one I wonder how much "money" God was paying Adam when He asked him to till the garden. Some of us don't want to work because we feel the money that we would be paid won't be enough. We think we are working for a person not being conscious of the fact that though we are serving under a person, we are ultimately working *for* God. And He is our reward.

When you are conscious of the fact that the main person you are working for is not your boss or an organization but God, then you will be able to serve regardless of what your boss does to you. You will be able to serve him like Joseph and Daniel did and be rewarded ultimately by God.

We will round up this chapter by looking at two key to thinking from heavens perspective.

1. How We Think About God

A man was asked on his birthday what he would wish for if was giving an opportunity to start his ministry all over again he said he would ask for more revelation about God's goodness. It is high time we embrace the truth that God does not want to punish us and curses are not more powerful than blessings because curses are to the fourth generation while blessings are to a thousand generation.

Please I will like us to bear in mind that when God is set to give you something the devil cannot blocks it from coming to you. It is a lie that the devil is making you believe when he tell you that good things that happens in your life can not be permanent

Some us think that God is slow; so we go outside for what we think is faster. I believe nothing is impossible I am significant and I am blessed. I read the words God has said to my life through people and through his word a lot of people forget so soon Gods word over their lives. God is good!

2. God Has Answer to All Situation and He Has Made the Answer Available To Us

If you are a scientist and you have this mind you will get the answers to your research. This does not work only in church or for pastors alone. But if we don't believe it we won't get answers because it is unto us according to our faith.

CONCLUSION

Believing a lie empowers the liar. Every time the enemy wants to usurp authority from Kingdom Citizens he begins suggesting lies about our identity, when we believe such lies we then give our authority to him. The enemy then has the right to torment and oppress us in that area of our life. The enemy took authority from our first parents (Adam and Eve) by lying to them about their identity that by eating the fruit they would become who they were already created to be. Thank God that the last Adam (Jesus Christ) defeated the enemy and took authority back from him and gave it to those that believed in His Lordship. So the enemy does not have authority now but has the power of deception.

Believing the enemy's lies then means that you will experience the outcome of such lies which will lead to him killing, destroying and stealing from you. But believing in the truth of God's Word will release life and life abundantly to you, it is that simple. No wonder Jesus admonishes us in:

Mark 11:22-24

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours

He is saying that when we speak and pray, what we should work on is our belief that is; renewing our minds with His truth.

God bless you and keep you!