



COMFORT

IN GRIEF

OLALEKAN MICHEAL

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A true love story

Many are the afflictions of the righteous:

but the Lord delivers him out of them all

(Psalms 34:19)

Revival Watch Publications

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God and every one of His faithful children going through a series of afflictions and trials.

A FATHER'S LETTER

04:47 Am

Dearly Beloved Daughter,

You are my daughter and in affliction have I birthed you, and through the furnace of fire am I raising you, lest you and any of God's heritage of whom I am a caretaker ever taste or have a share in the fire or pain again. Yet, if it pleases the Father to bruise His Own Son, what shall I say if He allows the enemy to bruise my beloved daughter, who also is God's seed.

I could not sleep, though very tired. As I tried closing my eyes, it was all dark and flashes went through my soul. If I could not sleep, how then could my beloved daughter sleep, what would be the condition of her heart? For I have sorrowed upon sorrow o'er my afflictions. Now I sorrow over you whom I birthed in deep travail and afflictions in my body out of the bowels of the love of Jesus Christ. These are still mysteries to me; I will never understand them until the Father takes me deeper and deeper into Gethsemane with the Son.

What took me aback just like Elisha the prophet was that, even though day and night I lift you before my Father, yet He hid this very thing from me. I have thought and raced through my mind why He would hide this from me. Maybe because He

knows that I would never let Him do this and yet He would not deny His friend such a request of great magnitude and high consequence; maybe I just simply failed in my role as a watchman. Maybe I had gone to sleep while I was supposed to be on the watch over God's heritage whom He had given me.

Oh, that I may know His will in this matter, lest I offend Him by accusing Him of wrongdoings. My daughter, my friend, my confidant, my intercessor – The Father hid it from me and I am ashamed. Yet I know there is more than enough grace and strength available for you to come out of this victorious and more than a conqueror.

Stay alive not doubting God's amazing promises for your life. Can the clay say to the potter, why have you made me this way? If it pleases the Father to break you deeper than I can imagine or bear, then I would praise Him, for He does the best for His children always – although I'd rather that He put all the afflictions upon me and not upon any of His heritage.

For if our earthly house of this tabernacle be destroyed, we know God has prepared a new house not made with hands of men, and as such, I am confident that the trying of your faith is far more precious than gold which perishes. Though you be tried in the fire, you are coming out more glorious and honorable, fit for the Master's use in this generation.

If there is no other way but for the Son of the Living God to go to the cross, then I may say the same of you my beloved daughter to go through this season of afflictions; knowing that your light affliction which is but for a moment will work for you far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Be stronger than you have ever been, for the test is not yet come. Your faith will be sorely tried in the next few days as though it were not yet, but I know He who loves you and died for you will carry you amid the trials.

Look up, you'd see the Father; look inwards, you'd see the Son of God and the Holy Spirit; Look around you and you'd see the love of a dear father even I who loved you above all. My baby who I conceived in afflictions. You will become what Christ intends for your life, this is leading you to the place of fulfillment. I thank my Father for the strength, grace, and courage He has given you; He won't leave you to fall. Stay Strong.

I have never loved you more than this – I never and will never love you less.

Dad

PREFACE

While the Lord was dealing with me on the subject of suffering and affliction, I was burdened to write on the subject of ***“Revival of Healing”*** – healing for those hurting, the brokenhearted, especially those who have been abused sexually. I was so pressed in the spirit about this subject that I poured all my heart into it; I promised the Lord I’d preach the message if I had the privilege to. This burden came a few days after I had an encounter with a young lady: beautiful, intelligent, with an amazing voice to match. Yet, I knew there was something about her that was strange. I was pressed in my spirit to talk to her, and afterward, we got talking. When she began her story, I was shocked; she was full of bitterness and anger. She had been sexually abused by her father. Each time she goes to people for help, even the so-called men of God, she is abused more. She was carrying this hurt within her heart; she didn’t know who to trust. Though she looked serene outwardly, she was bitter inside. She was a Christian serving God yet bound. I knew such an evil heart must be taken away, Christ needs to bind that broken heart. I was so overwhelmed with grief and pain in my heart. I asked her, "How do you sleep at night?" She said, "I don’t sleep". She had lost her joy and peace to the horror of her past. I prayed with her, trusting that Christ would come for her.

Christ was faithful, He healed her broken heart and is using her gloriously for His glory.

While I was writing this book and the Revival of Healing, I knew not that the Lord was preparing me for another affliction and how to handle such an event in my own life; as though I have not had enough pains and suffering. I was on the rooftop in deep agony in my intercession, and although I perceived something was wrong yet I knew not what it was, as I pressed on in prayer; I heard someone come up to the roof (one of our sisters), it was unusual, she was on the phone. I remember saying: **"Lord, don't break me beyond what I can handle"**. The emotional tone with which she spoke made me groan the more. She came to break the news that my daughter (in the faith) was manipulated into another series of sexual abuse barely a month after her 20th birthday, this being the second time in her life. The first was as a young child, which left her hurting almost her entire life, and now again. It wasn't anything I could handle by myself at the time, so I cried the more to the Lord: **"Don't break me beyond this Lord, don't break me"** – although He had made provisions for strength. When I finally gathered myself to get on the phone, as she said **"Dad"**, all I could say for some time was: **"I know (the pains and the hurts, the feeling of being dirty, the 'why'**

questions...), I don't want to hear the rest, I know". I could not bear the horror of what she had gone through. I went into the room, shut the door for some time, and groaned. I wondered why the Lord had hidden it from me, though he was preparing me all along. I later picked up the phone to encourage and comfort her to stay strong in all her trials. The testimony in it is that the Lord restored her and is using her greatly to advance His kingdom. God is raising a testimony through that life to help young people who have been abused, all for greater glory. Praise be to our God!

Olalekan Micheal

INTRODUCTION

This is an account of hope, faith, fate, and purpose, all for the glory of the eternal Creator. A spectacular show of the divine love of the Father for His children when afflicted, and a promise of deliverance and restoration even when the situation seems out of human reach.

This is also a reminder to all those who loved the Lord and are going through the toughest of all challenges that Christ never fails, and He knows all that you are going through. He will show up for you in time and never be late – hang on, dear friend because help is certainly on the way. May the God of peace and courage give you the strength to see the salvation of the Lord this very day; and the Egyptians whom you have seen for long, shall before you be drowned and seen no more. Amen.

My heart deeply moves with compassion for godly believers who have trusted and lived for Christ and at this moment are going through severe health challenges: cancer, pains, blood disease, and acute health failures. Those who have been so tried mentally and emotionally to the breaking point: the abused, the traumatized, those who have lost loved ones, jobs, and other possessions during this pandemic, and more recently the displaced and traumatized individuals caught up in the recent ongoing Russia-Ukraine and other wars. Although I share in

your pain as one who has endured diverse trials yet I know not your pains or sufferings but your Master does and would show up for you in due season. Simply hang on and trust in His unfailing love.

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

Be assured in Christ that this will end in praise, honor, and the glory of God. Faithful is He who will not try you beyond what you can bear, for He will certainly make a way out for you. Amen.

Praise be to our redeemer who causes us to triumph in all tribulations and sufferings, may His eternal name be praised forever. Amen.

Chapter 1

The Situation

“Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick” (John 11:1-3).

Here we have a situation that seems to have gone from bad to worse. This family looks like one which had known and endured past grief. Judging from the unusual set-up of this family (a brother and two sisters), one would be wise to ask, **where are their parents?** They might have lost both parents, leaving these siblings to care for themselves alone. The loss of parents would have been hard on this family, but another loss they seemed not to be able to afford. Have you lost loved ones, friends, family, or associates? Yet something or someone is slipping out of your own life. Be courageous, Christ would show up for you.

This as we can see is a godly family whom the Lord loved dearly. He had spent time with them on several occasions. He

was not a mere preacher to them or a mere guest, but He was a friend, and more like a family to this small family unit. To Him they were not mere seekers, they were loyal disciples.

The Lord Himself loved the family, ***“Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus” (John 11:5).***

These siblings seem to be unique and precious to the Lord. While Martha waits on the Lord in preparing the meals and caring for the Lord, Mary sits at the feet of the Lord (***Luke 10:38-39***). Mary's heart was so in tune with the Lord that she gave her best to Him when she broke the alabaster jar and poured the costly ointment on the Lord's feet wiping it with her hair (***John 12:2-3***). And it was said of their brother Lazarus, ***“he whom thou lovest” (John 11:3).***

Here arise the question:

“What were the sisters doing before the sickness became worse to the point where they needed to send for the Lord?”

I am confident that these believing sisters had spent days (day and night) praying for the recovery of their brother, though we were not told the number of days they had waited, trusting that their brother would be healed until they felt a need to call upon the Master.

When it seemed as if faith had failed them, they resolved to fate. It will be safe to say that they had learned how to ask anything from God because the Lord must have taught them how to petition the Father in His name in their hour of need. He must have taught them also the need to pray doubting nothing. They must exercise their faith and trust in the Master, and this seemed to have failed in their very own eyes.

Are you in a tight corner, and it looks as though you have placed all your hope in God, have you prayed all the prayers that you know how to pray, and even fasted (for these sisters would have done anything to see their only brother healed), have you separated yourself unto God or done any other religious duties, and all hope seems to be lost? Friend, don't lose courage, the Master will come for you. Is it a pain for you, or some form of sickness, or dangerous diseases such as cancer, Covid, fibroid, tuberculosis, etc? Whatever it may be, hold on to God – hope yet in God for He is the health of your countenance, and your God (***Psalms 42:11***).

The more they trusted, waited, and prayed, the more the sickness got worse. At this point, they could no longer bear it alone, so they called for the Lord to come and heal His friend. Look, Lazarus was not just anyone to the Lord but a friend. Are you a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ? While you reflect on this question, allow God to search through your heart, so that you

may see beyond the situation you are going through at the moment.

Another honest reality about the situation was that they might have prayed not just for the healing of their brother but that the Lord would show up at this moment of crisis before the thought of sending the message crossed their heart.

They might have made promises unto the Father in prayer and probably laid fleeces before God that He would send the Master miraculously to their home. These sisters did not doubt that the Lord was with them when Jesus was around, but now when the storm of life arose and the Master was not physically there, they seemed to be waiting for a miraculous appearance of the Lord in their home. I want to stop here and say, ***the fact that you are going through whatever it is you are going through now does not mean God is not there with you – He is Emmanuel.*** He is right there with you in the midst of the storm. The angel of the Lord that appeared to Gideon said: ***"The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"*** I would like to paraphrase what I perceive was Gideon's response, ***"The Lord is with me? Where? When? How? Can you see my situation? I am hiding and threshing corn in the winepress, that's not true!" (Judges 6:11-13).*** Similar to this was the cry of the disciples as the storm arose,

“Master, do You not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38 AMPC). They had lost all awareness of God’s presence. We as believers must always crave God’s presence which comes in the form of peace that floods our hearts in times of trouble and overwhelming storms of life.

It was clear that the sisters could no longer hold on in prayer, thus they did what seemed reasonable at the time, which was to send for the Lord. Let me point out another striking relationship they had developed with the Lord apart from the fact that their home was the Master's lodge and preaching venue each time he was in Bethany, they were in tune with the Lord's ministry. How could they have known where Jesus was at the time? They were physically and spiritually involved in the Lord’s ministry thus they knew His itinerary.

While they prayed, and it seemed as though nothing had happened, in reality, a lot had happened. The Lord was teaching them to trust unconditionally, though the situation looked terrible, they must hold on to God.

Chapter 2

The Urgent Message

Sending For Jesus

This was an emotional appeal for the Master to come because the one whom He loved was dying. They thought it would be weightier if they reminded the Lord of the concerned person and the Master's affection for him. Sometimes when God's Children go through pains and trials, they are quick to forget that they have a loving Father and Savior who sympathizes with them in their hour of grief, and how they present the matter to the Lord in prayer does not change God's affection towards His children. God said in a certain passage of the Bible, ***"Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!" (Isaiah 49:15)***. Also in another place, He said, ***"If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your heavenly Father..." (Luke 11:13)***.

What was the message? ***“Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick.”***

It’s as though they said, ***“Master, we have done all we can, now he is dying and if you don’t come, he’d soon be gone.”*** This message tried to appeal to the human part of the Lord’s emotion, such that you’d think the Lord would drop everything He was doing to attend to such an urgent message.

Let me take a pause and ask, who do you call in times of your crisis? Many of us are quick to call a doctor, a friend, or a family when a crisis hits our lives before we call unto the Lord ***(David said, “I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies” – (Psalms 18:3).*** We must learn from these sisters to call upon the Lord first in all situations. What can men do for us in our crisis? They may say sorry at best, but the Master is willing to go beyond sympathy and come to our aid.

“He whom you love...”

This shows the height of love the Lord has for His dear children. The Master must have taught and demonstrated to them the love of the Father. Now, this is a true test to know if He truly loved them. We must understand this fact, though Jesus loved Lazarus dearly, He would want them to learn

another lesson on faith. God’s reasoning is not like human’s, as He said in the scriptures:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV).

A lesson we all must put to the heart is that those things which are seen by the natural eyes are temporal, yet the things not seen are eternal; the natural may call it dead, and the spiritual call it sleep.

I can see you in this same awful circumstance, sick even unto death. I hear you cry all night for days, weeks, and months, and it seems as though help is not forthcoming, it looks like the Lord is silent on your matter and will tarry longer till the hopelessness goes beyond hope.

Listen to another man’s cry,

“O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O Lord—how long? Return, O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies’ sake! For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You

thanks? I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies” (Psalms 6:1-7 NKJV)

In response to this man's cry, I say, “... ***weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.***” (Psalms 30:5)

The Lord weeps when his children weep, He hurts when we hurt, and He is touched by the feelings of our infirmities (***Hebrews 4:15***). He knows all our afflictions – David said: ***“This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles” (Psalms 34:6)***. Oh, the sweet deliverance that comes from the many afflictions of God’s people.

Despite the assurance and promises from the Lord to show forth and come for us, our human nature is still quick to ask questions. The obvious one is, ***“Why me?”***, and my answer is, ***“Why not you?”***. During such times of crisis, we must learn to pray and praise-through until our breakthrough and deliverance come. Have you just lost your job or loved ones, or is there any affliction in your flesh, pray and praise-through that situation – the Master will show up for you.

I remember some time ago in my mid-20s when I had a series of pains in my bones. For almost a year I was in severe pain, every joint in my body ached. The most excruciating pains come from within my bones, deep inside my marrows; I would cry day and night, asking God to take away this affliction and heal me. I would whine and weep telling God to heal me, yet I was in constant pain daily. At one point, I decided to visit the doctor who gave me strong doses of pain medication to relieve me, all to no avail. To tell you the truth, I questioned His love for me, I questioned His fatherly care for me, and I was not sure if He was faithful as He promised in His word. I was dying in pain, confused and not knowing if life itself was worth living to the extent that the enemy suggested suicide, the thought of ending it, and that the pain will end. In the end, He came for me, He shew-forth. The Lord gave me the strength and courage to go through the pain, and after a while, the pain disappeared. I don't know when it disappeared but I was healed.

Are you in pain as I was or far greater pain or faced by strong difficulties of life and you've been trusting and waiting on the Lord that He might come for you and show forth His mighty power? Hang on, He is teaching you to trust in His great faithfulness, He will surely come, though He may tarry, wait for Him.

I remember that it was at that time of pain that the Lord placed in my heart the burden to pray for people with cancer, and people who are in other forms of pain or going through tough issues of life. Because of my pains, I could not sleep easily, so I would go out at midnight to pray, groan and cry unto the Lord for the afflicted. I could feel their pains and sufferings, so I poured out my heart to the Lord day and night. I can recollect that at the height of my intercession, it was laid upon my heart to pray even for the family of people whom the Lord would call home for the strength to trust – ‘that God does the best thing always and that He has not taken their loved ones away as an act of punishment, rather because He knows and does the best in the interest of His precious children’. After praying for many weeks and months, I began to have cases of people with cancer needing prayer, and God graciously heard us, while He healed some, some He took away for His glory.

Of a truth, there is not a single affliction or trial that God is not aware of He takes a keen interest in helping us during the times of our trials and affliction, He would do all to shield and protect us so that the enemy might not gain an upper hand. Be assured that He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear, and He will also with the temptation make a way for you to come out unscratched, stronger, and better in Him ***(1 Corinthians 10:13)***.

His grace is available and sufficient for you, for God's strength is made perfect when we are **weak (2 Corinthians 12:9)**. Our weakness makes God's strength perfect, if we are strong then we would not need divine help and strength. I'd rather be weak and suffer many afflictions in order to see God's dynamic strength over and over; than to be strong and lose touch with God's strength and go in the strength and might of the flesh. By this, I pray not to be sick or suffer pain but I strongly desire God's strength to make me perfect in all my weaknesses.

***“Therefore I take pleasure in my infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distress for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong”
(2 Corinthians 12:10).***

Chapter 3

Christ's Response

The Lord's Answer To The Emotional Appeal

When the message got to the Lord, one would have thought that He'd leave immediately for Bethany to attend to His friend's need, but the Master's response and action say otherwise. God is infinitely wise, sometimes we try to think for Him or even instruct Him on what to do and when to do it, yet He is God all by Himself. By all possible means, He does the best thing at the right time in His infinite goodness and knowledge of the end of all things. This brings me to another question: ***“How do you respond to news of family or loved ones grieving; or in trouble; or of a doctor's diagnosis? In fear or faith in God's ability and endless faithfulness?”*** You must respond always in faith and not in fear; for the perfect love of Christ in the lives of God's children casts out all fears.

“When Jesus heard that, he said, this sickness is not unto death ...” (John 11:4a)

Jesus acknowledged the condition of Lazarus as sick. Though positive confessions are good, you must know and acknowledge

who the enemy or problem is to gain an advantage, surely you will overcome it. He knew quite alright that Lazarus was sick. Christ's response to the matter can be summarized as **“I know!”** i.e. He knew that Lazarus was going to even die physically and be buried. Our God is He who knows the end from the beginning: **“He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning, and the ending, the first and the last, the One which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8).**

To Christ, death is nothing to be feared by them that loved God, for He through death has destroyed him that has the power of death and hell which is the devil (**Hebrews 1:14b**). In another part of the Bible we can see the triumph of our dear Savior, **“... Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? ... But thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55,57).** Jesus Christ has the keys of hell and death, through Him, we are more than conquerors (**Revelation 1:18**).

“But for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby” (John 11:4b).

Looking at the response of Jesus, I would like to encourage you, dear friend. All that Christ wants is to take glory through that situation you are going through, and take note of the word **'going through'** – it simply means that it is not where your story ends. It is by no means the end, but a means to the end, which is the glory of God. What seems to be the worst condition is to bring the greatest glory to God and Christ. Jesus came to comfort those that mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning; the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called the tree of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified (**Isaiah 61:3**). Christ will turn your defeat into victory, your disappointment to appointments, your sickness to sound health, and your failures to success. Praise God!

We must begin to see things the way God sees every situation in our lives. He said that sickness in your life is not unto death, though all signs, tests, or even doctors' reports point to death. That situation is not going to see your end, even when all indications point to you failing and losing out. Whose report will you believe, friend?

The Lord has said it and it's the verdict, ***it is not unto death***, that situation will not see your end. O, that we would walk by faith, and not by our feelings (sights). Your eyes may see it, your emotion may sense it, but it is all for God's glory.

When physicians see death, you must see life because Christ is the greatest physician who heals without touch, He charges no money, and His word is enough to tackle all manner of sickness and diseases if only you will respond to Him in faith. Even if you need a replacement organ or body part, Jesus can recreate those in your body through His word. Maybe you are on the sick bed right now, and the doctors have just broken the news to you that there is no hope, or you have a family member dying right now. Dare to respond in faith to that situation and say out loud: ***“The Lord Jesus Christ said, 'This sickness is not unto death but for His glory, and He will be glorified in this matter’*** Amen. Facts are not always true in the face of active faith, but the truth is what Jesus who is ***the Way, the Truth, and the Life*** has said concerning the situation. Let your anchor hold fast upon the truth of the rich promises of God in His word in your difficult times. Again, it is all for the glory of God.

The Exclusive Love Of Christ

Let me clearly emphasize with all sense of knowledge and understanding, that the Lord Jesus Christ loves you still, even in your present predicament, He has loved you with everlasting love. The greatest proof of His love for you is best portrayed in the laying of His life for you.

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).

“Greater love hath no man than this for Him to lay down His life for His friends” (John 15:13).

Christ is the good shepherd of your soul. O, you can hear David saying, ***“The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need....”*** ***Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (it means: though all situations around me look dead, though the sickness or disease seems to be getting worse even to the point of death), I shall fear no evil for the Lord is with me (Psalms 23).*** I want to confidently say to you dear friend, fear no evil report, signs, or symptoms. Christ is with you working out His will and good pleasure in your life.

Chapter 4

The Lord Tarried

*“... He abode two days still in the same place where He was”
(John 11:6).*

Why would Jesus delay going to Bethany if He truly loved Lazarus and his sisters as we have established? The conventional wisdom of man would reason that as the good shepherd would lay down His life for His sheep (**John 10:11**), Christ must quickly go and heal His friend whom He loved, but He abode two days still in the same place to the amazement of His disciples.

Who could ever wrap their minds around the riches of God, the depth of His wisdom, and the marvel of His perfect knowledge? Who could ever explain the wonder of His decisions or search out the mysterious way He carries out His plans? (Romans 11:33 TPT)

Observe that Jesus did not pray that Lazarus should be healed as He had often done in other cases when such a message was sent to Him. We must not forget that He needs not to be

physically present to heal as His word carries the power to heal and affect any situation – ***He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction (Psalms 107:20).***

In the case of the centurion whose servant was sick of Palsy, all Christ said was, “Go your way; and as you have believed, be it unto you.” And his servant was healed the same hour (Matthew 8:13). Also, in the case of the woman of Canaan, ***“Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is your faith: be it unto you even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour (Matthew 15:28).***

From every indication, even you can be made whole at this very hour if you believe and trust Jesus to touch you. As you read these lines and believe, Christ will respond. You don't need to wait until your pastor or any anointed servant of God lay hands on you if you will strongly lay hold unto the word of God in defiant faith.

Jesus staying back where He was those two days begs the question, 'Why'? What was His motive? Maybe your own ***“why”*** is: ***Why Lord the delay, why are you not coming for me now? For how long will I be in this situation?*** Just

wait, wait upon the Lord, and be courageous, He shall strengthen your heart.

Seasons of waiting are the most trying and difficult in the life of anyone, especially the believer. It is the breaking point for some when their faith seems to be tested beyond their ability. Some lose faith and backslide at this point because they cannot see the promised help of the Lord. Let me again encourage you to wait for the salvation of the Lord which He will show you today in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Your present situation is for the glory of God, He wants to take glory for Himself over His choicest and well-favored children. I often ask myself, ***why God won't take certain pains from my life?*** The answer is simple and short, ***it is all for the glory of God.*** I know He wants to take glory over every situation of your life, He is carefully watching to make known His name through you. He doesn't want to do it secretly, He wants to openly show forth to all men that He is a faithful Father. If the sisters' prayer had been answered, or Jesus had spoken healing to the situation, we may never have known that such a huge storm had once hit that family and learned of the faithfulness of the Lord. I strongly believe that God permits certain sicknesses, diseases, pains, and troubles in the life of His precious children to take glory over modern science, medicine, technology, and every other arm of the flesh. He

wants your testimony to challenge others to dare to trust and believe in Him for help, so that many by your deliverance may learn to trust in the saving power of Christ and be washed in the pool of His blood.

To further amplify this truth, consider the incredible story of the man born blind in the Book of John Chapter 9. This young man had not seen with his eyes since he was born. The disciples asked the Lord saying, **“Who sinned, was it the father, or mother, or himself?”**. The Lord responded that **“neither the man nor the parents, but for the work of God to be made manifest (in other words that the Lord might be glorified)”**. By the time the Lord showed forth for this man, he was not only healed but he was also made whole. The latter means his healing was not only physical but spiritual also. He became a believer, not an ordinary one but an evangelist, preaching and publishing the goodness of the Lord. His testimony also caused many to believe that Jesus was the Christ, again bringing glory to God the more.

You can be assured friend, that your testimony will also bring many to Christ, many will receive salvation and deliverance from the power of the enemy and Christ's Kingdom will be established in the hearts of many.

Chapter 5

Christ Is Coming

“... Let us go into Judea again” (John 11:7)

At this point, the Lord seems ready to swing into action, He knew what He was going to do all along. He knew His friend whom He loved would live again just as He had proclaimed earlier by stating clearly that the sickness is not unto death. God knows all about your problems, they are not beyond the reach of His power. He will surely put laughter in your mouth and cause many, even those who hate you and mock you because of your faith in Christ to rejoice with you. This is true because with God nothing is impossible – there is no limitation to the saving power of our Lord, in Him was Life, even abundant Life. His power to save is not limited to sickness, disease, or pain alone, but to all issues of life that stand tall as a mountain before you.

Though Jesus at the time was being targeted by the Jews for harm (**John 11:8**), He still proved His love for His friend by His willingness to risk His life; and much more to the point of laying down His life if need be to save one of His own. Christ

truly is the greatest shepherd who for one sheep will risk going out into the wilderness to restore it to the fold. In the human school of thought, men may say; one out of a hundred sheep makes no significant difference, ninety-nine is more than enough, and it is an insignificant loss, but this is not so with our Lord. He would not allow any of His children to be lost. He said, ... ***those that You gave me I have kept, none of them is lost – (John 17:12)***. Christ will do everything possible to find the lost. Also, He will not allow any of His precious little ones to suffer without comfort, hope, and grace to carry them through. O, I wish you would understand the height, width, and depth of love Jesus has for you. I have always said that the greatest proof of love is sacrifice, and this can be seen in what God did for wretched sinners like us. ***For God so loved the world that He gave (sacrificed) His only son to be punished for undeserving sinners - (John 3:16)***. That is the true love my friend, and no man must reject this amazing love of God.

Whenever the Lord is ready to move, nothing can stop Him. He will brush aside every hindrance to reach you. An elder once said, ***God is not a man that needs to make preparation when He wants to do something, He needs no planning either, at the time He has set in His mind,***

He simply does it, and perfectly too. He will move men, and circumstances, and deploy natural and spiritual resources to meet you at the crucial point of need. Nothing could dissuade Jesus, not even the advice of the disciples (**John 11:8**), He had given His word and they are yea and Amen, to the glory of God.

Light In The Darkest Hour

In your darkest hour, Jesus has promised to shine forth His great light. God's word says ***they that walk in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined (Isaiah 9:2).***

Many times, it is all gloomy and dark. There are moments of despair and endless thoughts of being alone and destitute. When you reach that point, be assured of Christ's promise of light in the darkness. I have heard some people say: ***"I am in a dark place, I don't know my way out, which turn to take, or the pathway to victory and deliverance."*** It sometimes comes as dark thoughts of suicide or leaving the pathway of holiness, and even comprise. Never lose courage, Christ is the

light of the world – He said, **“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5).**

He said unto His disciples:

“... are there not twelve hours in the day? If a man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because he hath not light in him” (John 11:9-10).

You cannot stumble or fail as long as Jesus is alive, Amen. He points out to the disciples the need for light i.e. Himself. He is simply saying as long as I am with you, you have nothing to fear, everything is under control. This is because when Christ shines His light, everything 'darkness' must give way **(John 1:5)**. At creation when darkness seems to be having its way **(Genesis 1:2)**, all the divine Creator did was to call for the light. **“Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3)** was all He said, and there was light. The absence of light is darkness. Anytime there is light, darkness goes to hide. Except Christ who is the light is in and with you, you cannot escape the woe and dread that darkness brings. Oh, I challenge you to surrender your entirety to Christ if you have not, and He shall be your light. Every sinner is in darkness; they are in the greatest darkness ever

known. In it is witchcraft, sorcery, chains of habit, perverse sexual behaviors, and all wickedness known unto men, yet here is an appeal to you to come to Jesus so that He may shine His light into your heart and life. Awake you that sleep, you who grope in darkness, and Christ shall give thee light.

To my friends (the believers) whom this message comes directly to, I say again, walk in the light of Christ daily, even as you pass through this season of trial.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).

The light will shine on your path and you will not stumble, because the Lord will shine forth in the brightness of His glory and cause every darkness to disappear. When all the battles are over, you will burst into glorious and beaming joy, and the joy of the Lord shall continually be your strength (***Nehemiah. 8:10***).

Chapter 6

He is Sleeping, Not Dead

“Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go to wake him out of sleep” (John 11:11).

This is an incredible statement made by the Lord. I am sure He is talking about your situation right there. He is saying that it is not over yet. Jesus by His claim has just given us a different perspective to which we must see all situations of life. Yes! you have pain, but the pain cannot have you. Yes! the doctor says it is cancer, be assured that cancer can never have you. Whatever that trouble is cannot trouble you. Christ wants us to talk differently, He wants us to talk the way He talks, and see things as He sees them, for what you see is what you become. I want to earnestly hold you up so that your faith is built not in the wisdom of men but in the word of God. Do not let the enemy trouble you and put you into worry and doubt, he wants you to experience defeat, failure, and even death. Yet God is saying: it is victory, success, and life. Hallelujah!

When Jesus said Lazarus sleeps, it does not imply that He is not aware of the physical death of Lazarus. No! Because He

later told His disciples plainly that Lazarus was dead. He said Lazarus was sleeping to show them His attitude towards death, and His power over death. You must as well see that Christ in you is greater than your present situation, so, hold on to His rich promises.

The Lord completely redefines the attitude of believers to death, a fresh lesson He wants us to learn. Throughout the ages, believers have taken this lesson to heart and are assured of the Lord's promise to wake those that sleep again on the resurrection morning (***1 Thessalonians 4:13-14***).

Do not be like the disciples who had heard the Master use the same word earlier and yet could not discern what the Lord was saying by allowing fear to throw them into the mire of unbelief and doubt. All the devil wants to do is use fear and unbelief to snatch your blessing. ***Resist him now standing fast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (1 Peter 5:9)***.

Before now, Jesus had dealt with a similar case of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, whose only daughter was dying. He begged that the Lord would come and heal her but while on the way, words came to Jairus: ***“Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master” (Luke 8:49)***. The response of Jesus was

again evident that to Him, death and sickness are in the same category. To Him, one is not greater than the other, for He said **“Fear not, believe only, and she shall be made whole” (Luke 8:50)**. The same promise I bring to you friend, whether the situation is dying or dead, Jesus will make you whole. The mourners were already crying and weeping when Jesus arrived at Jairus’ home. He did not join them in this vague display, He loves and He is willing to do something beyond a superficial burst of emotions. He said **“Weep not, she is not dead, but sleepeth” (Luke 8:52)**. I say to you beloved in the name of Jesus Christ: **“Weep not; it is not over for you; Christ will step in for you now”**. Though the people laughed at Him to scorn, yet God was glorified. Have you been laughed at? Have men mocked you because you choose to call those things which are not as though they are? Be at rest, your mockers will soon come back to rejoice with you.

I have often said that every one of us at one point in our lives has seen the mighty deliverance of the Lord. We have seen Christ come for us when we were in tight corners, we have seen the supernatural and in our confession, we have exclaimed words such as **“This is God!”**. Do you see the same God coming for you this time also, or do you think this one is bigger than Him? Truthfully, the natural tendency of man is to forget

the faithfulness of God in the past. Nothing is beyond God, because faithful is He who did it in the past and will do far greater works in, for, and through you now. Simply look back at those moments and trust Him to do it again. In my trials, I rest assured in this fact, that because He has done it in the past, He will do it again. This is because my Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**). You also must have this assurance that Jesus will not fail, for He has never failed. Two thousand and twenty-three years after His death, Jesus is still the same today!

When the Lord told them the sickness was not unto death, does it in any way mean that He lied? Certainly Not! All He was saying to them was that death will not have dominion over Lazarus. The state of death itself is hopelessness, lifelessness, uselessness, wastefulness, and so on. The Lord was saying that the fact that it looks like it, does not mean it is; the situation may look so awfully bad and hopeless; what matters is that Christ will surely be glorified in it.

Honestly, the Lord sometimes allows our loved ones to slip out of our hands into glory in His infinite wisdom and love, and for the good of His beloved children. As a young boy many years ago, just about twelve years old, I came back from school on this day to meet many people gathered in my house, I knew something was not right. I was told my beloved little brother

whom I loved so dearly had drunk kerosene. A few years ago in Nigeria, kerosene stoves and lanterns were used for cooking and lighting the house in the absence of electricity, respectively. As a middle-class family we were able to buy and keep excess kerosene for immediate future use (some families still use it today). Only Jesus knew what happened on that fateful day, how the lad got to know where the kerosene was kept, to have opened the container and drank it. That afternoon I went to church and prayed that God would heal my brother. I cannot remember vividly what prayer I prayed, but I was in deep anguish. Distance away from my home later that day, I knew my beloved brother had gone to be with the Lord. Oh, the pain of a mother. I cannot say how my mother felt that day, but I was deeply pained. I can't remember whether I really saw him that morning before rushing to school, but my little brother never came home that night. I never saw him again, yet I wait till I see my most beloved brother again in glory. He was such a bright boy at the age of two, with great prospects and a promising future, but he was taken away. I would have given anything for him, he was everything I was, yet far stronger and brighter. That evening sympathizers and church members gathered to mourn with my family. My brother was gone and one after the other, the people started leaving. We were soon faced with the sad reality of his departure. Going to school the next day, I broke into tears on the assembly ground, I was never

going to see him again. The Lord was gracious to us in those trying times because he gave my family the strength and courage to go through this period of grief. He came and comforted us. We did not mourn for our boy for up to a week: The Lord quickly restored joy into our home. Though we missed him, there was a sense of God's hand and providence in the matter.

The Lord Jesus proved to my family that He was not only a friend in good times but also in bad times, He is a Father and Friend to us.

Several years passed before I realized that truly God brought the best for us out of that situation. Because of my love for children, I had always longed for God to raise for Himself a home for children without parents, I had always dreamed of my mother becoming a mother to those children. I dreamed of this in my teenage years, and I looked forward to the time when this will be fulfilled. About fifteen years after the departure of my brother, while I was in prayer, the lord dropped into my heart that he would raise a home in my little brother's name for children who have no parents and the abandoned, thus the purpose of the Lord in all this is known. It was in the end for His glory, because one was gone so many others could have a home and parents that they could call mummy and daddy. Praise God!

“... Lazarus is dead and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless, let us go unto him” (John 11:15).

Christ had tarried to strengthen your faith and to take every unbelief off your way. There could be no other better-qualified vessel to take such a magnitude of glory other than you, His friend. Just as He was teaching His disciples to fully trust Him, **“I am glad for your sakes I was not there ...”**, so also, He is teaching you now. All things are for your sake, and Paul re-echoed this when he said, **all things are yours, ye Christ’s and Christ is God’s - (1 Corinthians. 3:22-23)**. All that Christ does or allows in your life is for your sake. He doesn’t want you to only see His wonder but that you become a wonder yourself. He wants to use your victory and triumph to strengthen the faith of others. He is doing it to draw men to Himself and encourage your local assembly to trust more in His prayer-answering power.

Your help will come now, nothing will stop it. The Lord has chosen you for His glory, do not give room for fear, everything will end in praise.

Chapter 7

Christ: Never Too Late

The Timely Arrival Of Christ

To the natural man and by all possible indications of human intelligence, the Lord was not just late but too late. By the time the Lord showed up at Bethany, the man was four days laid in the grave and stinking. Has that disease or sickness reached the final stage? And all over it is written, impossibility? The Lord is most interested in such cases; He is a specialist in doing the impossible. Take courage dear, Christ is never late.

Christ could not have chosen any other person for this special miracle but him who He loved. It is safe to say that this is the greatest of all the miracles performed by the Lord in His earthly ministry. Also because of the love the Lord has for you, He has allowed you to endure your trials before showing forth because He wants to make a show of His name through you. ***The best miracle is reserved for the most loved.***

Jesus was finally in town; He must prove His love to these grieving sisters who had none to turn to but Him. You can see in Martha's reaction as she cried ***“Lord if thou had been***

here, my brother would not have died” – these believers were so beaten by their affliction that they were fainting. Are you quick in accusing the Lord of being absent in your trials, despite Him being around at all times working all things together for your good?

Remark: I honestly wish our eyes are opened to the innumerable number of angels on assignment helping us in all our struggles and troubles – that ***‘the eyes of our understanding might be enlightened, that we may know the hope of His calling, and the riches of the glory of His inheritance us, and the exceeding greatness of His power towards us, according to the mighty working of His power’ (Ephesians 1:18-19).*** Amen.

As the rush of emotions and the overwhelming thought of Christ being late raced through Martha's mind, she concluded that because Jesus was late, her brother died. This seems logical and human. How Christ managed this situation is now the most important thing. How does He give comfort to us when we are hurting, or mourning? How does He bring hope and consolation to the broken-hearted? He sends peace in the storm, saying to the storm ***“Peace be still”***. He helped and comforted my family, healed our broken hearts, and floods our souls with peace and joy. Certainly, He’d do the same for you.

The Lord was not interested in healing Lazarus, He had prepared a far greater wonder beyond healing for him, though the sisters could not see it. Are you also seeing the situation and not Christ working something far better for you? I have learned by experience that all things work together for my good because I love the Lord and I am called according to His eternal purpose (**Romans 8:28**). Just like Martha, I am certain that there is still the knowledge of the omnipotence of Christ as the God of all possibilities, and that He'd not fail to show up for you.

Martha said:

“But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” (John 11:22 NKJV).

She knew that the Father would not deny the Son (Christ) anything. Do you know also that your heavenly Father will not deny you anything you ask in Christ's name? If you know, then hold on to Him, so that He may take the due glory.

Remark: Learn this, ***“The greater your affliction, the greater the glory”***. God will not deny Christ and Christ will not deny you either. Simply trust and believe.

You know, I was thinking of the trauma, shame, and mockery that this family went through. Trauma because they

had lost their only known family, and the thought of being all alone had overwhelmed them. Shame and mockery because the Christ whom they had boasted and claimed to love them, seemed to have suddenly abandoned them in their hour of need. Oh, the thought-provoking words of some Jews, questioning whether Jesus truly loved them. After all, did they not call Him their friend? They must have been great witnesses to what Christ can do, talking about all the rich promises of God to the whole town; yet He whom they love did not come for them in due time, and now their only brother is dead. You may be saying that's me! That's my story: I have dedicated all my life unto the Lord since childhood, yet my life has been marred with affliction after affliction. Does it seem as though Christ whom you so much loved and witnessed about has suddenly left you an object of shame and ridicule? And now the unbeliever says, ***"Where is your God" (Psalms 79:10)***; and you are alone not knowing what to do. Do not despair, He is near to those who trust Him, He is closer to you than you ever know, and He is here for you now as a mighty deliverer and helper. Be at rest because He'd show up for you and not delay. O, you that weep all night with deep groaning and strong tears, be cheerful, your joy comes now. Christ would wipe away all your tears and there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pains, for the former things shall pass away (***Revelation 21:4***).

When it comes to testifying about Jesus in India as a young missionary, I seem to have a big mouth, opened wide and filled by God; I'd say my God is bigger than the three hundred and thirty million gods in your land, they are all dead. They are full of eyes yet they see not; ear, they cannot hear; mouths, they cannot speak; legs, they cannot walk, but my Jesus is alive, strong and powerful, mighty to save and deliver. He will heal your body and save your soul. Though I had troubles in my own body, and the Lord seemed not mighty to save me in my trials and afflictions, His strength was made perfect in all my weakness, and He came for me as promised. Just as He gave the sisters a new assurance, He will give you also today.

Remark: Lazarus' family was known by the whole town as being the friends of Jesus. Jesus had no other place in town to lodge but with this little unit; they were the envy of many and a subject of hatred and mockery by others. Are you known for and with Christ?

Chapter 8

A New Assurance

Nothing is as powerful and important as having fresh assurance from God in an hour of crisis. It puts the mind in a state of rest. So, what was the new assurance?

The Resurrection And The Life.

*Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” (John 11:25-26 NKJV)*

Though this family had been taught by the Lord that the saints shall be raised on the last day (**John 11.24**), yet they did not know Jesus as the **Resurrection and the Life**. They must learn this new practical life of faith experientially. They must come to know Jesus as the resurrection and that He has the power to give life.

“For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them, even so the Son quickeneth whom He will ... For

as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given the Son to have life in Himself” (John 5:25,26).

The emphasis laid here was more on faith rather than on the actual theme which is resurrection.

Remark: In a generation when people no longer believe that someday, all men who have died and those who will die will be raised to face the eternal judge of the whole earth. In a time when people no longer believe in heaven or hell, and worst of all in God that made them. God’s people must hold on to their faith, for iniquity has truly abounded, thus the love of many has waxed cold (**Matthew 24:12**). Sadly, the very elect seemed to be losing their faith and holding on to the false peace offered by the world system. Our faith will be tested and tried with fire until we all become glorious vessels fit for the Master’s use in this perilous time.

There are two important things we must pay attention to here:

(i) The power of Christ over death and (ii) The power of Christ to give life.

Do you believe in any of these? Do you believe that He can bring back to life those dead organs and tissues? Do you believe that with His creative power, He can make all things new (**Revelation 21:5**)? Do you believe that death has no power

over your soul? Do you believe that if the Lord in His wisdom chooses to take you away to glory it is victory and triumph over death because He'd wake you again?

Dare to believe Him, because the resurrection and life will not only give you life but also eternal life. You will overcome by the blood of the lamb and by the words of your testimony because you loved not your life unto death (**Revelation 12:11**). Would you like Martha, say, **“I believe (John 11:27)”**

You may be like Mary who was obviously more devastated and heartbroken of the two sisters. To her, the Lord had failed to show up and that was the end. All her service, her sacrifice, her sitting at the Master's feet looked as if it was all but in vain and she had been deserted by her most trusted ally. Over and over she wept at her brother's tomb, such was the grief of this dear lover of Christ.

Remark: Nothing can be more heartbreaking than seeing one's faith slip out of one's very hand when faith seems to have failed. Yet, the Lord knows, He knows the number of hair upon our heads, and He would not allow one to drop without His permission (**Matthew 10:30**). How do you explain the life of a man of God like **Brother David Wilkerson**? A life characterized by trials, sufferings, and many afflictions. His

whole family was plagued with one suffering or the other; his wife had cancer with multiple surgeries, the daughter had cancer, the granddaughter died of cancer, and the son had severe back pains, among many other troubles life threw at this dear brother. He saw more grief and pain in his life and knew more times in the hospital, yet he faithfully served Jesus who held his hands through all those crises. Christ also brought him peace and he finished with a triumph, now with Jesus where there will be no more pain.

I met a woman a few years ago who had cancer, she was held down yet when she prays for others, they get healed – how do we explain such working of the Lord, that through her suffering, she might bear deep compassion for those suffering and in pain. I know the righteous cries, yet not a single drop of their tears falls to the ground, the Lord surely comes to rescue them from their afflictions. A classical example is the life of Job which best tells the anguish of the soul that the righteous sometimes go through, and the deliverance God promised in such times and seasons; for the Lord blessed the latter end of Job than his beginning (***Job 42:12***).

A very nice way to look at it is through the summary the Holy Spirit gave us.

We know that God blessed people who were like that. They continued to trust God when trouble happened to

them. You have heard about Job. He waited patiently for God to help him in his troubles. You know how the Lord helped him in the end. Because of that, we see that the Lord God is very kind and he helps us. (James 5:11 EASY)

Prayer: I'd like you to pray that the Father will comfort those who are mourning and those in one affliction or the other. That the Lord will heal those who are in pain and those bound by sickness or disease. Trust and believe God for them that Jesus may take all the glory in the situations they are passing through at this moment by taking a moment to pray for someone you know going through tough times.

Chapter 9

Our Compassionate Friend

Christ is the ultimate compassionate friend of the weak, the poor, the sickly, and the helpless. He has shown this throughout all ages with strong emotions and intense agony that brings healing and deliverance to them that hurts. So tender was the Lamb of God who loved us and died for us, that at the sight of any of His children's affliction, He pours out the fragrance of divine compassion.

“When He saw Her weeping and the Jews also weeping ... He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled” (John 11:33).

He groaned in the Spirit – this is the height of emotion that goes beyond what words can utter. It is impossible to describe the intense pain the Lord Jesus feels when one of His precious children is in any kind of trouble, affliction, pain, poverty, or disease. See the Captain of our soul moan with deep anguish and sorrow at the travail of His precious children. This is a clear indication that the Lord sees you when you weep all alone in

the corner of your room and is ready to take your pain upon Himself. ***Surely, He will bear your grief (Isaiah 53:4).***

The statement '***groan in the spirit***' is in harmony with the operation of the Holy Spirit's intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

(Romans 8:26 NKJV)

Remark: Such great empathy can be correctly shown only by Christ who knows the source of pain and evil (i.e. sin), and was determined to crush its power through His suffering and ultimate sacrifice, which was His death on the cross. Christ who was in the beginning saw a perfect man (Adam), He knew what man was before sin came into the world, and seeing now the consequences of sin, He groaned that there might be a restoration of humans to this original state and even beyond the original state.

Jesus was deeply troubled at the sight of the grieving sisters. Nothing troubles the Lord more than seeing His precious children suffer. He could not bear the sight of seeing His

children in agony. Dear friend, Christ identifies with you in your suffering, and He'd turn your mourning into great rejoicing. Amen.

He Wept

For years, I have asked in my heart: why Lazarus? It is because:

“The best miracles are reserved for God’s most beloved children”

Why was the miracle reserved for him? Could the Lord have chosen any other but him? Here are a few reasons why I believe the Lord prepared this for him:

- He was well-loved by the Lord – the Lord gives the very best to His beloved children. Jesus echoing this truth said: ***“If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your heavenly father?”*** Would you not be shocked if the Lord had given the children’s bread to dogs? He won’t cast that costly pearl before the swine, lest it is trampled afoot. He must show the deepest emotion known to men publicly i.e. to weep, and no other person than the one whom He loved deserved such operation of grace and mercy.

- Lazarus was the Lord's friend, and his family (Martha and Mary) were Christ's family. He was to them a loving friend, such that He said, ***“Our friend Lazarus sleepeth” (John 11:11).***

I am very sure that at this point, you can see the answer to your own **“Why me?”**, it is because the Master loved you dearly and He has reserved the best for you.

The Height Of Love and Loyalty

Jesus up till that time had performed so many miracles in His earthly ministry. He had opened the eyes of the blind; caused the lame to walk; cleansed the lepers; healed divers sicknesses and diseases; fed the multitude; calmed the storm; walked upon the sea; including raising the dead daughter of Jairus and even the dead son of the widow of Nain. There was no doubt up till this time that Christ was from God; that He could do things humanly impossible; and that He also possessed the power to give life, yet some Jews called him a fraud. They accused Him of casting out the devils by Be-el'-ze-bub the prince of the devils (***Matthew 12:24***). They questioned His deity and refused to accept Him as the Messiah that was to come. Jesus

was about to do something which His adversary could not gainsay nor prove by any logical reasoning of the human mind.

The Pharisees in their propaganda and many attempts to destroy Jesus might have come up with several theories to prove that the earlier dead raised were not authentic. They might have called it resuscitation from a coma. They might have argued in the case of Jairus' daughter that, after all, no one was with Jesus at the time except the parent of the damsel and three of His disciples; and in the case of the son of the widow of Nain, that it was outside the city. Since the Pharisees believe in Resurrection, they cannot afford to agree that these dead were in an actual sense raised back to life, because it will prove the deity of Jesus, and destroy all their argument that Christ was not the Messiah.

Now is the time to put all doubt to rest, making known His power openly, even in the sight of all the Jews (Pharisees). It's time for God to be glorified and to silence the enemy of the cross of His Christ.

Through you, God wants to extend the influence of His kingdom on earth, by the reason of the victory He gives that men may seek and praise Him. Do you see this? I pray that your eyes might be opened to see the glory that lies ahead of that trouble in your life.

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Amen.

(Ephesians 1:17-21 NKJV)

“Jesus Wept” (John 11:35)

Why did He weep? I have asked myself this, I wanted to know why the Savior of the whole universe had to express such deep emotions, and what was He saying to us? What must we

learn from this since He doesn't do a thing without a profound lesson for us upon whom the end of the world is come? There must be a secret behind this.

The Lord wept because He saw His friend bound by the power of death and grave. He wept because His children wept. The sight of the horror of death in the heart of His children made Him more determined to quench its sting. Can you ever think of any friend who is well acquainted with your grief, pain, and sorrow? One who weeps when you weep, not superficially as the Jews did when they wept with Mary, but from the depth of love – God's kind of love – **Agape Love**; Christ is that true friend.

The Lord must have wept so compassionately for His friend and his sisters that the Jews who were there said **“Behold how He loved Him!” (John 11:36)**. If men could see how Christ feels for you in your trouble, they would simply say, **'Behold how He loved him or her'**. If you could see the Lamb of God who was nailed to the cross, the Lord who endured pain and shame for you, you'd shout, **'Behold how He loved me'**. Until we see the crucified Christ, the Lamb slain for the sins of the world; despised and wounded for us, we would never understand how much He cares for us in our deepest hour of need. He took all the shame and endured the pain because He

loved us. Sinners!, Will you reject His love for you? How long will you reject Him? He cares for you and longs to save and rescue you if only you'd call out to Him for help.

Chapter 10

Our Great High Priest

“Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave, it was a cave and a stone laid upon it” (John 11:38).

The Lord groaned again – this shows His deep compassion toward us. By this time, the Jews had started making mockery by saying **‘why did He not come and heal His friend letting Him die (vs. 37)’**. Nevertheless, He had greater works in mind, which was to destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and give life, even eternal life.

At this point, He stands as our high priest, our tender and compassionate friend who feels what we feel and knows all our struggles. Christ best understands our suffering more than anyone who has ever lived on this side of eternity because He had endured far greater suffering to redeem us from the guilt and curse of sin.

He became sin for us, who knew no sin, that we may become God’s righteousness. Thus, our faith must look unto

Him - ***'The Lamb of Calvary'***, in Him should our confidence lie.

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15 NKJV)

Of Christ, it was said, ***"Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.***

(Isaiah 53:4 NKJV)

At Gethsemane – He cried that the cup might be taken from Him. It is clear that even in the days of His flesh, Christ was so troubled and faced with mountains of pain. Have you also reached that point in your life where the agony is too much and you cannot bear it? Your high priest was there before you, His sweat was like great drops of blood – so intense was His agony because of undeserving sinners. You can be assured that just as God strengthened Him, He will strengthen you also. ***Consider him that endured such a contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you become weary and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:3)***

Remarks: Truthfully, you may say, but I am in pain. Be of good courage, because ***He was wounded for your transgression, bruised for your iniquity, the chastisement of your peace was written all over Him, and by His stripes, you are made whole (Isaiah 53:5).***

Are you in deep sorrow? He is a man of many sorrows, He was despised, rejected, oppressed, afflicted, judged by wicked men, and by the grace of God, He tasted death for you. Picture in your mind the dying Savior as He cried ***“E’-li E’-li la’-ma sabach’-tha-ni?) my God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)***, all for the glory of God that He may obtain a more excellent name highly exalted above all principalities and power.

Christ was Crushed by the Father, He was left alone to bear the consequences of sin from Adam to the last person born on earth – He alone can relate sincerely to our loneliness, sufferings, and pains because it pleased the Father to crush Him ***(Isaiah 53:10)***. This truth qualifies Him as our true hope in difficult times, He perfectly understands all our plights – the beatings, the spear thrust into His side, the gushing of the blood, the crown made of thorns, the curses, abuse, strong nails to the hands and feet, bruises all over, and these he suffered all for us so that He might be a faithful high priest sympathizing

with us in all the trials we are faced with. Here is another amazing promise to all those who fully trust in Him even in the hour of great testing:

“For because He Himself [in His humanity] has suffered in being tempted (tested and tried), He is able [immediately] to run to the cry of (assist, relieve) those who are being tempted and tried [and who therefore are being exposed to suffering]” Hebrews 2:14 (Amplified Classic)

Praise the Lord because He is able to immediately run to assist us when we are tempted.

“Christ’s love is beyond what the natural man can understand until we see Him as He is in His glory at the day of His appearing”

Chapter 11

Away With The Stones

*“by this time, He stinketh for He had been dead four days”
(John 11:39)*

Are you being reminded of how hopeless the situation is, just as the Lord was? All He is asking you to do is ***roll away the stone of unbelief***. Listen to the Master and roll away the stone. If only you'd take your eyes off the report and roll away the stone that Christ might step in and do what He alone can do, your miracle will come. I do not doubt the facts of the doctor's claim or what the situation looks like, but listen to the Master's word, and shift your gaze upon Him.

Unbelief is a dangerous sin, and for this reason, was a generation destroyed in the wilderness.

And to whom sware He that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that believe not? So, we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Unbelief is insulting God's ability in any situation, it is saying that God's claim of omnipotence is a lie. It is questioning the integrity of God's word and His sovereignty. God is always grieved when His children fall into the error of unbelief (**Hebrews 3:9**). God likens it to having an evil heart (**Hebrews 3:12**), which must be purged by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

In every situation, the believer must avoid unbelief, after all the believer's life is that of faith in the Son of God. ***Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief (Hebrews 4:11)***. We must watch against unbelief, it is one of the ways by which the devil robs us of our blessings and deliverance. Unbelief robs a man of seeing the glory of God, for it is only when a man believes that he can see the glory of God (**John 11:40**). The only thing standing between you and divine intervention is unbelief, roll it away that the Lord might save you with His mighty strength.

Commitment: Dear Jesus, now I know that unbelief is a sin, please forgive me for doubting your words and promises. I repent today and I believe in You, and all Your promises of deliverance from this day henceforth. Amen

Chapter 12

Victory Through Thanksgiving

Be anxious about nothing but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your request known unto God (Philippians. 4:6).

The believer in Christ must learn in his or her deepest trial to praise and thank God because it is the greatest pathway to victory. The scripture admonishes us to give thanks in all things because it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). Look carefully around you and deliberately in all and through it all be a habitual thanks-giver to God. The hardest times to give thanks are during our trials and afflictions because it defies human reasoning. Why should you give thanks to God when you are sick, in debt, in poverty, in unemployment, in stagnancy, or when you just lost a loved one or going through the toughest trial known to man? Because the dead cannot praise the Lord, either they that are gone into silence, only the living can praise the Lord. Life itself is a privilege, you must thank God for it because when there is life, there is hope.

A careful look at the life of Jesus will show us that He gave thanks always, and on many occasions, He does that. He gave thanks while He fed the four thousand people by a miraculous act (**Mark 8:6**). Also, at His last supper with His disciples (**Matthew 26:27**). By His continuous example, Jesus wants us to learn that the secret to obtaining breakthroughs and victory is thanksgiving.

At the tomb of Lazarus, the Lord again showed us the need to give thanks, and that we must not only give thanks to God in good times but more intensely when things look tough and there seems to be no way out. Friends, we should not only learn this but live it.

Take a quick look at the life of a godly man and his reaction to one of the greatest series of sufferings that any man can endure and the blessings God gave him in the very end.

“Then Job arose,... and fell upon the ground, and worshipped” (Job 1:20).

Why Did Jesus Give Thanks?

He gave thanks because He knew that the Father always hears Him.

Father, I thank thee because thou hast heard me – (John 11:41).

One of the reasons why I am confident He'd get you out of your current affliction is because I know He has done it before and He'd do it again. If you carefully take stock of the Lord's dealings in your life, you'd see that He has come for you on so many occasions when there's none to help. Are you then so quick to forget the Lord your help in ages past and your hope for years to come? Dare to say with David, ***"I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalms 42.11).***

Let me give you a few reasons why you should give thanks. In my first year at a certain university in Nigeria, I had the habit of getting up very early in the morning for prayer. I would walk from the hostel to the campus gate and back (about 6.6 km), sometimes I would walk twice praying in the Spirit and understanding. On a fateful morning, I stepped out as usual; some boys came to sleep over. Then in our university, most students don't have accommodation so they squat with other students, such that the room meant for four people may have twelve or more in it. I was also squatting. As I was coming back about 6 am, it was still very dark. I saw some boys gathered in front of my room. A tragedy had taken place, one of the boys

who came to sleep over had fallen ill in the middle of the night, almost dead or dead in the room, he was pronounced dead a few hours later. He was dead, a young man with prospects, ambitions, and plans. His journey had come to an end even before he started. We learned later that he was a sickle cell patient yet very strong and chubby. He was gone, money failed! But I am still alive, not because I am better, but because of the Lord's faithfulness. Should I not praise Him in my trials and afflictions? You must have far better reasons to give thanks to God. Truly He is good and His mercies endure forever.

Another instance I am careful to give is the testimony of God's faithfulness during afflictions and trials. During my trip to the city of Tirupur in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. I met a young girl in her teens with a tumor in her breast. She had stopped going to school, all she wanted to do was to serve Jesus and tell everyone about Him, yet she suffered. When I heard that young girl pray, it was as though angels came down as she prayed with such deep groaning. I have heard a few men praying with such anointing since then. Even in her trial, God raised a testimony for the praise of His name. Praise the Lord!

Never worry about what you are going through dear friend, the terrible nature of the situation does not matter, all that matters is that you know that the Master will come for you. Jesus will hear your cry, pity you and send deliverance to you.

While you pray, give thanks for what He has done, what He is doing, and the victory you so expect.

Tormented? In devil's bondage or shackles of oppression, sick or afflicted, destitute? Whatever the circumstance may be, I urge you to see your victory as you praise the King of the whole earth.

Chapter 13

Breaking Forth Into Life

“... *Lazarus come forth*” (John 11:43)

I hear the Lord calling your name and saying to you **‘Come forth’** – come out of your afflictions, pains, and sufferings. Break forth into life, laughter, and endless joy.

He who says, **‘Give thanks’**, is the same that says, **‘It is for My glory.’** He who said ‘believe in Me’ is calling you forth into victory. You must respond to Him in faith because He has come to deliver you out of your many afflictions and trials.

How I hope you can say out loud, **‘I am coming forth in the name of Jesus, the Lord Jesus Christ has called me forth into health, blessings, deliverance, and victory.’**

Isn’t it wonderful to know that our Omnipotent Savior has everything under control? Even that which was hopeless as death, I mean a stinking dead situation. He called Lazarus forth, and He declares to you, saying, take courage and believe, you will come out of all your troubles.

Remark: For years, I had tried to paint a picture in my mind of what happened at the tomb, it is too supernatural that my mind cannot capture it. I came to a logical conclusion that some unseen force must have dragged the man out of the tomb for he was bound – the power of the Holy Ghost, the same power that shook the earth and brought forth the Lord Jesus Christ out of the grave. This Spirit and Power is still at work today, it will quicken your mortal bodies and bring you forth out of all the oppression of the enemy.

Just as we would never understand or be able to explain how Lazarus came forth out of the grave, I mean the hand which pulled him out, so will men not understand how your deliverance and help came about. You will not be able to find an explanation as to how it came to be but only singing and praising God. Amen.

Freed Indeed

If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. Lazarus had come back to life yet bound, he was bound by the grave clothes. Until loosed, he was not freed indeed.

Christ's response to the situation was a declaration of freedom, He said, ***“Lose him and let him go” (John 11:44).*** Will you dare respond in faith to the freedom that Christ is declaring to your life today? He has come that you may have

abundant life, a wholesome victory, and deliverance. Christ came to set the captives free, even the lawful captive shall be delivered at His command.

Remark: When Jesus sets a man free, it is complete. I know this from personal experience. For the first sixteen years of my life, I was held bound by sickness, never knowing peace and sound health for a complete week. When the sickness comes up, I would convulse, vomit, and feel cold. My situation was so terrible that I feel cold in summer, winter, and spring, all year round. It brought shame and reproach to me among my peers. I had the last episode that got me desperate to seek God's divine healing on a Saturday morning while going for a polytechnic entrance test. I fell, weak, and vomited in front of a bank. I was embarrassed. After that episode, I returned home and cried unto the Lord. He heard and healed me so wonderfully that for many years, I had no such episode again. I became so strong that I take medication occasionally afterward. He who heard my cry will hear and deliver you too. I tell you when Christ heals a man, that illness never comes up again, it is permanent.

Chapter 14

Sin and Afflictions

Up till this point, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to men and women walking in covenant with God. Men like Job who loved righteousness and hated iniquity, yet are in serious afflictions and troubles. Such people would turn out as refined gold unto the glory of the Savior, Amen.

Yet, there remains another party to whom this particular section is addressed. They are the people who are afflicted and tormented because of sin. The truth of the matter is that men living in sin are vulnerable to afflictions, they are the lawful captive of the devil, and he does whatever he pleases with them.

Christ wants you to be free. For this reason, He suffered shame, and reproach, and bore your infirmities upon His body, nailing them to the cross. He wants you to be free from sin. All the troubles and afflictions of men can be traced back to the fall of the first Man – Adam.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:12 NKJV)

God's purpose for man is to be healthy and not to be sick. He wants us to have dominion and not to be dominated, to win and not to be defeated. The devil took away man's liberty and poisoned the human race with sin. This ultimately brought poverty, pain, wars, famine, terror, sickness, diseases, and death. However, for this purpose, Christ was made manifest to destroy the works of the devil – the Bible says that ***'His name shall be called Jesus because He shall save His people from their sins'*** (Matthew 1:21). Sin is a destroyer and it leads to death because the wages of sin is death (***Romans 3:23***). Praise God! ***'That through the death of Christ, He destroyed he that has the power of death, that is the devil: and deliver them who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage'*** (Hebrews 2:14-15). Paul in connection to this subject explained how a man in the Corinth church who engaged in sexual immorality with his father's wife can be subjected to the destruction (tormented and afflicted) of the flesh by satan (***1 Corinthians 5:1,5***).

The book of James explains that a man can be sick as a result of sin, and such needs to be forgiven to be healed (***James 5:15***). Flee from sin friends, and run to Christ, the giver of life.

So many lives and destinies have been cut short because of sin. Do not become a victim of what Christ has died for you to be freed from. If any man is in Christ, he becomes a new creature, you can be free from sin.

Are you struggling with besetting sin or weight? You must cry to God for deliverance. There is help for you at the cross of Jesus Christ, foul to the fountain fly, be washed by the Savior, and be freed. Say not brother, **'but I am a Christian'**, yet you are living in sin. You must walk in the light to be free from all oppression. Dare to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for cleansing, so that you may have a new identity characterized by victory. The blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses all sins (**1 John 1:7**).

At a point in my life, I was held bound by the power of sin, I was hooked on pornography and masturbation. I was in this prison for so many years. It took away my freedom and caused me lots of physical pain. I abused my own body because I was bound. I wanted to come out, but I was caged, with none to help, until mercy found me. Christ came, broke the shackles, and set me free. This freedom by the mercy of God has been used by God in helping other young lives who are bound and Christ delivered them as He did deliver me. I am free.

One more instance of Christ's deliverance came in my first year in college in India. I was new in town and had to move to the hostel. I had two roommates, one a Hindu boy and the other

a nominal Christian from the southern part of India. As I was showed up in the room, there came up this huge fellow, he asked me, '**Are you a Christian?**' Being on fire for God I said yes, so we got talking. He was a Christian but never truly lived a Christian life. He was a chain smoker, one of the worst in the college at the time. He had no sense of direction, frustrated about the uncertainty of the future. Within a short period, the Lord Jesus Christ set him free. The work God did in his life was so deep that many years after he is still free, and married with two wonderful kids.

Again, I speak to you, sinner, turn to Christ for forgiveness and pardon, God has promised never to cast anyone who comes repenting, confessing, and forsaking his sins – such would find mercy. Here is the love of God, '**while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**'. Not when we were righteous but as sinful, depraved, unworthy enemies of God. Are you in sin and bound by the devil? Come to Jesus' cross, there is enough power in the Blood of Jesus Christ to save and deliver you from all your troubles.

What must I do you say? (i) Acknowledge your sins, i.e. you must agree with God that you are a rebellious sinner who desperately needs pardon from a merciful God. (ii) Confess your sins to God through the name of Jesus. (iii) Renounce and forsake all your sins (iv) Plead the blood of Jesus to cleanse all

your sins (v) Belief in your heart that God meant what He said about your pardon. (vi) Accept it by faith.

Chapter 15

Christ Glorified

Was Christ glorified? Yes, He was, and ultimately the Father was glorified in the Son (**John 17:1**). I have always said that ***“The greater the affliction, the greater the glory”***. Sometimes back the Lord showed me the picture of my own life through this lens, and why my life seems to be marred with afflictions, trials, and sufferings. He spoke to me as a promise from His word: ***“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction”*** (**Isaiah 48:10**). Sometimes God allows His children to pass through the furnace. The story of the three Hebrew brothers shows me that His eternal purpose is past finding out. He who promised to be with us when we pass through the fire (**Isaiah 43:2**), must prove the worth of His word. These brothers’ faith was so tried and they did not grumble or complain. They must have joyfully sung some psalms as they were being thrown into the flames. Even in the furnace of the earth, as the fire was heated seven times so was the word and promises of God over

their lives tried. (***Psalms 12:6***). God must show Himself or they perish. God could have saved them from the fire, but He chose not to but chose to save them in the fire. Right there in the fire, Christ was with them, the fourth man in the fiery furnace. Not a single hair on their body singed, nor did their body smell of the smoke of the flame. Though bound and thrown into the flames, they walked out free – all fetters broken and shackles taken off. All these God did for His glory, to proclaim His name. Christ is also with you. If you look closely, you'd see that you are not alone and that God will be glorified as He did in Babylon (***Daniel 3:12-30***).

God's choice vessel used for Kingdom exploits are men and women chosen from the furnace of affliction – these have been tried over and over again (***to purify, to strengthen, to sanctify, to embolden...***) that they may readily bring forth the praise of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. You can rise and shine because your light has come and the glory of God has risen upon you.

I have learned that, for God to take maximum glory, He makes the situation humanly impossible; that no flesh should glory in His presence. Are you a friend of Jesus, and you are being tried over and over? Be of good cheer, Christ is preparing for you what no man can take glory for but Himself. He is deploying all resources to make you a marvel and wonder. Stay

upon the Lord, wait for the Lord, He'd be there for you
(Psalms 27:14).

Blessed are you when you endure trials, for there awaits you a glorious crown of life, which the Lord has promised those who love Him **(James 1:12)**. May your many trials work patience in you to the glory of God. Amen. **(James 1:3)**. Christ the good shepherd has promised never to leave nor forsake you, He is ever close in times of trouble, a very present help in times of need. He'd hold your hands and say to you, son or daughter, I have everything under control. O that you'd see the tender loving grace of the Savior producing strength for you to come out into a glorious victory.

The Lord heals the broken in heart and binds their wounds **(Psalms 147:3)**. Each time I look at the many victories I had seen in my own life, from the many afflictions and trials, I am at rest, confident in Him for future triumph; and that He'd turn my tests into testimonies which will bring many to Christ. The greatest glory that Christ can take in your life is in a victory that brings men to Him. If He is lifted in your afflictions, He would draw all men unto Himself **(John 12:32)**. Our God is the God of all possibilities. By doing the impossible in your life, many will be forced to believe in the power of Christ in you. My deepest prayer is that the Lord would give you amazing

testimonies that will turn the hearts of men to Himself, even as the Jews believed in Him (**John 11:45**). Will you let Him through your life take such huge glory by trusting Him through it all? One man's testimony brought five thousand to Christ (**Acts 3,4**), yours can be greater.

Final Words

No believer can outgrow suffering or can be too anointed to suffer trials and afflictions. Our Lord upon whom the Holy Ghost was poured without measure and anointed by God the Father Himself, faced seasons of trials and great afflictions. I have not known, and I don't know anyone who has outgrown suffering.

While doing the final review of this work, I felt the need to let you know that the Lord is faithful to all those who love and trust Him and that He is with them in all their troubles. I wish men like Brother David Wilkerson could write the foreword of this work as one who knew and have endured serious afflictions with many testimonies of God's faithfulness, but praise be to our God who calls the faithful home to Glory that they may rest from all their toils and labor.

Weeks before the first review began, I began to feel a burning sensation in my hands and feet which made me visit the doctor after many years. As the nurse checked my blood pressure, she exclaimed: "Mr. Olalekan Micheal why is your blood pressure so high?" The doctor said my blood pressure was too high and that I should stop fasting; and gave me some prescriptions. I have often said that there is nothing the

medication can do that the blood of Jesus did not and cannot do. We thank God for our good doctors but much more praise to the Great Physician (Jesus Christ). Thanks to Jesus, I am healed, not by medication but by the power of Christ.

As one who has known and endured suffering from my childhood, I identify with your pains and many sorrows, and Christ also knows. He shares your griefs, sorrows, and pains.

Though I cannot claim to understand or know the full extent of the afflictions, trials, persecutions, or troubles in your life - I will never understand. However, I know He who knows and feels deeply for you, Christ Jesus, and He is the one assuring you of victory. He'd take full responsibility for you if you will honestly hand it over to Him. He wants to take the glory, why not let Him? Call upon Him as Mary and Martha did, and let Him have full control of your life.

Be assured that in your time of trouble, He meant no harm, He is not punishing or angry with you. He is making you better and fully furnished unto good works.

Have your loved ones slipped out of your hands? If they were in Christ, rejoice because they are in glory with Christ who shall quicken the dead and living on the day of His appearance.

For the suffering of this present world cannot be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. If only we see the

glory that awaits us, when we shall see Him; we shall be like him, and we shall see Him as He is **(1 John 3:1-2)**, in the glory of the Father. We also know that even if this our body fades and wears out, God is preparing for us a new and glorious body that cannot be corrupted. This new body is not made with hands, and it is eternal in heaven **(2 Corinthians 5:1)**.

Christ is the resurrection and life, He that believes in Him, though He dies shall live again. O, the joy that floods my soul when I remember that my precious little brother is at the feet of Jesus Christ, a thousand words cannot express it. Christ took him, and he kept away from the pains and struggles of this life. Nothing can be more glorious than being changed; when the corruptible shall take up the incorruptible, mortality swallowed up by an immortal life in glory.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make your perfect, stablish, strengthen and settle you (1 Peter 5:10).

Remarks: Don't let faith slip out of your hands in times of affliction, lest what should bring glory, take you into endless eternity in torment. I urge your dear friend, not to lose faith in Christ, let nothing take away your faith. Hold on till the end and be saved.

The life of faith is not a trouble-free life but one with victory at the end of the battle. The Lord has promised us victory, he wants us to be encouraged because He has overcome the world **(John 16:33)**. Yea, they that will live godly in Christ will suffer persecutions **(2. Timothy 3:12)**.

No limitation or barrier can stand in the way of Christ's mighty deliverance, because all power in heaven and on earth belongs to Him.

Grace!

***O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's
praise. Praise the Lord!***

COMFORT IN GRIEF

By

OLALEKAN MICHEAL

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Psalms 34:15-19 NKJV

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