



# BECAUSE *of the* HOUR

F E I K O A B      P A R I M A H



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Design by: Akrofi Sanakey; Max Akoto-Ade

Contact the author via:  
[feikoabparimah@gmail.com](mailto:feikoabparimah@gmail.com)

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## **Dedication**

*Rev Albert Awuku, my pastor who first discerned  
the call of God upon my life at the early stage of my  
Christian walk. The seeds sown are yielding  
dividends. Sir, I am grateful!*

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## *Introduction*

The times in which we find ourselves require that we constantly remind ourselves of some of the devices of the enemy, and to rely on the scriptural provisions made by God for us to be able to survive in such an hour. I will attempt to expose one of Satan's potent weapons which he once used in the Garden of Eden, and is currently using in the world and against the children of God: deception. It is against the deceptive schemes of the devil that we have been instructed to put on the whole armor of God.

To defeat evil, the king of glory prescribed that we put on the armor of light. Although it is hardly used by most children of God, it is nevertheless one of God's potent weapons in fighting darkness or evil in the world. If only we manifest as light in this evil world, most of our battles (if not all) would be won.

Apart from the armor of light (which we are supposed to put on), we can also escape the deceptive arrows of the wicked if we possess

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spiritual stability by gaining wisdom and knowledge. In order not to be discouraged, there is the need to be reminded of the need for us to joy in tribulations. In this hour, the children of God need to be encouraged, and made to understand that we have been appointed unto tribulation.

Further, I call to remembrance the primary reason why Christ chose us, which is to possess eternal life. I might develop this fully in a separate book if God permits. However, I only scratched the surface in this book. To possess eternal life is to possess the life of Christ. This necessitates that the children of God follow in His steps. I conclude with the need for us to uphold righteous/holy living as the early disciples did, and most importantly as we see the day approaching. May the good Lord help us all. Amen!



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# CHAPTER I

*Beware of Satan's effective weapon*

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*Beware of Satan's effective weapon*

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" Eph 6:11. The deadliest weapon of the devil in this end-time is tricks or deception which comes in a cunning way. It appears that was the first weapon he used in the garden of Eden, which helped him to defeat the first Adam. By logical inference, if that weapon worked for him, it is possible he will as well rely on it in the end. Of a truth he is busy using it to his advantage. It is against this backdrop that we are supposed to put on the whole armor of God.

I know a lot has been written about the armor of God, and as such I will not delve into that, but highlight the fact that it is due to deception that we are commanded to put on the whole armor of God. Scripture records that the serpent was more cunning than all the other animals, and due to such quality, the devil decided to use the serpent to deceive Eve:

*"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord*

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*God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"*  
Gen 3:1.

The root of most satanic workings in our days is deception. He continues to succeed because most of us are undiscerning. I am convinced that the reason multitudes patronize false prophets is because they have been deceived. Jesus warned that we should not be *deceived* simply because that was going to be the major weapon of the enemy:

*"And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them"* Luke 21:8.

We can only escape the grip of false prophets if only we put on the whole armor of God. What it simply seeks to convey is that a life devoid of truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit is vulnerable to the deceptive ways of the devil.

There seems to be a connection between deception and sin. It was through deception in the garden of Eden that sin (by way of disobedience) came into the world. Paul also puts forth that sin deceives (Romans 7:11). The reason some people indulge in sin is that they have been deceived into believing that God will overlook their sin. However, 1 Cor 6:9-10 states that:

*"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"*

This scripture should serve as a caution to all of us, not to embrace or entertain the idea that so far as we call ourselves Christians we can get away with sin. It is great to be a Christian, but we should ensure that the sins mentioned in the above scripture are not found in our lives or

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else it will cost us our salvation. To ignore this truth is to be deceived. I pray that God by His infinite mercy will grace us by delivering us totally from these sins. Paul goes further to reveal that as the world draws to a close, there will be a continuous derailment in morals characterized by deception; “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” 2 Tim 3:13.

*“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” Rev 19:20.*

Deception here is preceded by receiving the mark of the beast. Earlier, I made the point that if one does not uphold the word of truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that person is likely to be deceived by the devil. As such, such individuals accept the mark of the

beast and are consequently deceived. The devil attacked Jesus in a subtle way seeking to deceive him with the scriptures (Luke 4:1-14). However, Jesus overcame him using the scriptures. There is no way we can overcome the devil outside the word of God. The word of God is truth and leads one in the path of righteousness. It is the same word that builds our faith, makes us wise unto salvation, and is an offensive weapon against the enemy. How else can we escape the tricks of the devil if we neglect the word of God?

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## CHAPTER II

*Put on the Armor of light*

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***Put on the Armor of light***

In living a victorious Christian life, we must activate the light of God in our lives. When God wanted to deal with the problem of sin, He had to introduce His son who is light:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not”*  
John 1:1-5.

By the introduction of light, darkness disappears. To add to all that has been written on spiritual warfare, I wish to state that working on our lives and manifesting as light as God commands us, is able to deal with the evil around us. We received the Holy Spirit not because of our righteousness, but by faith. Christ had to pour upon us His Spirit to enable

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us to live a holy life. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that breaks yokes.

To overcome evil, tit for tat is never the solution. The Biblical prescription is to attack evil with good:

*"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good." Rom 12:17-21.*

We have been commanded to put on the armor of light:

*"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the*

*armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." Rom 13:12-14.*

To put on the armor of light is to put on Christ. This is the surest way of living a victorious Christian life.

There are times we attack the devil and his cohorts to destroy his works, but at other times (if not most of the time) the Lord beckons us to put on His full armor:

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and*

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*having done all, to stand..." Eph 6:11-17.*

Actively pursuing and appropriating these in our lives guarantees victory.

## **CHAPTER III**

*The need for spiritual stability*

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### ***The need for spiritual stability***

*“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure” Isa 33:6.*

From this scripture, to gain stability, the tripod of wisdom, knowledge and the fear of God should be present. In this chapter I will endeavour to connect righteousness to these three elements that have been mentioned and to understand why these three will help us gain stability in our lives. Proverbs 9:10 states that:

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy is understanding”*

According to this scripture, the prerequisite to receiving wisdom from God is the possession of the fear of the Lord. However, it appears that most of us do not fear the Lord. Right from the head to the rest of the body. The words of prophet Isaiah still echoes in our days that, there is rottenness from head to toe. There is decay everywhere. The prophets and the

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priests are like dumb dogs who cannot bark. My prayer is that the Lord should grant boldness to His servants to enable them to proclaim His true word without fear or favour.

Having laid the foundation for our need to fear God, let us move on to the need to be delivered from falsehood. This is necessary because we are talking about stability in our personal or individual lives. This calls for knowledge:

*“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” John 8:31-32.*

This scripture suggests that we have people who are ‘disciples’ and those who are disciples indeed. Some followed Jesus Christ but along the line, they fell. They were all categorized as disciples, including Judas. Why is there a need for us to know the truth? It is not just knowledge about anything at all, but knowledge about the living God.

The word makes us understand that we shall know the truth and the truth that we know will make us free. To be saved or delivered from the whims or caprices of false prophets, there is the need for us to know the word of God, and the God that we serve. Scripture declares that the one who is rich should not boast of his riches:

*“Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord” Jer 9:23-24.*

The implication is that the knowledge of God is indispensable in our age. Feeding on the word of God makes us mature and immune to/from deception:

*“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries:*

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*but the people that do know their God  
shall be strong, and do exploits” Dan  
11:32.*

The tool of the antichrist or the people who project and dispense falsehood is flattery. False prophets and teachers will see your true need but will never tell you since they do not want to hurt your pride. They also diabolically shield people from the truth to make gain out of them. The word of God is for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God will be made perfect and thoroughly furnished for every good work (2 Tim 3:16).

The word of God entails rebuke, correction, and doctrine, which is supposed to instruct us in the way of righteousness. But the false prophet will not fulfil these basics. I have met so many people along the way in my Christian journey who have asked: “how are you sure that you too will not end like them”. Oblivious to these people, I settled that question with the Lord before I decided to come out to preach the gospel. By His grace, some of us will remain

faithful to the end. This is the confidence that I have in Him. There is no point in preaching if one will end up the same way others have erred from the faith. Paul explained that no power on earth, nor heights above can take us from the Son of God.

Most often, when we read “..... but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits,” we think it is about doing miracles, signs, and wonders. What this means is that you will be able to outwit even the antichrist and be able to deliver yourself from his flatteries. You will be saved from falsehood. In Israel, when the antichrist comes, he will behave in a way that the Jews will be deceived into believing that he is on their side. Nevertheless, there will be some wise ones among the Jews, who through knowledge, will discern that he is not their saviour. In essence, knowledge of the living God is very important in delivering us from falsehood.

*“How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of*

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*the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"*  
Jeremiah 8:8-9.

Rejecting the word of God does not mean that people will not take Bibles. They will have Bibles, but they will refuse to pay heed to the truth therein. They will twist the very scriptures to benefit themselves, thereby not being faithful with the word of God.

*"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without*

*partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” James 3:13-18.*

So, when these things reign in the nation, there will continue to be confusion and evil work. Scripture tells us that this kind of wisdom does not come from the living God. However, one of the characteristics of wisdom that comes from God is that it is first pure. If we have this kind of wisdom from above, it will give us stability.

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## CHAPTER IV

*The need to Joy in tribulations*

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### ***The need to Joy in tribulations***

Christians have been appointed to suffer troubles in this life for the sake of the gospel. Failure to discern and understand this truth exposes one to the antics of charlatans who prey on those who seek for ease in this life. God never promised us a trouble-free life, but promised to be with us in, and through troubles:

*“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Isa 43:2.*

To some extent, it appears our salvation (progressing from the initial salvation) is tied to what we also suffer for the sake of Christ. The apostle made it clear that we must go through much tribulation:

*“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much*

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*tribulation enter into the kingdom of  
God." Acts 14:22.*

Paul added that we can only reign with Christ in the end if we also suffer with Him. No wonder the apostles counted it joy for suffering shame for the sake of Christ; "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." Acts 5:41. We have been enjoined to count it all joy when we fall into diverse trials and temptations:

*"My brethren, count it all joy when ye  
fall into divers temptations;" James  
1:2.*

To resign from these is to rob oneself of what God could have wrought in/ through his or her life. A lack of understanding as to what these trials do in our lives accounts for why some Christians shy away from suffering through compromise.

It is not enough to embrace this truth. We are expected to be joyful in such circumstances when they come our way. Paul was

exceedingly joyful in every tribulation he suffered at Corinth, knowing what the tribulation wrought in the faith of the believers there. Just as Christ's suffering brought about redemption, so did Paul's tribulation lead to the furtherance of the gospel:

*"...Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you... For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ..."* 2 Cor 4:8-18.

The persecution in a way brought about dying and identification with Christ thereby releasing life to many. Death must be present for life to be released.

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## CHAPTER V

*Called unto eternal life*

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*Called unto eternal life*

That which is visible is the product of the invisible world. Those spoken of in superlative terms in every sphere of life initially conquered the realm of the abstract, and then produced that which is now concrete. However, a more enduring fruit is the one derived through faith in God:

*“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” 2 Cor 4:16-18.*

For the things that can be seen are temporal, but things that cannot be seen are eternal. Someone said that “it is the logician who seeks to get the heavens into his head, and it is his head that splits”. Some things are for people of faith only.

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I think it is by God's munificence that mystics are not extinct. By patience and continuance in truth, we are certain that we can bring to light, immortality, and eternal life.

*"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:15-16.*

From this scripture, the paramount reason why we were saved was so that we will have eternal life. Heaven is just a byproduct of eternal life. God ordained us unto eternal life; "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:48. The scripture clearly shows the end to which we were saved. Eternal life is Christ and could be found in Christ. It could be found in Christ in the sense that one can only be saved by accepting Christ as his or her personal savior. This initial step gives us the privilege to possess the life of Christ in us:

*“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13.*

It is spiritual death that separates us from God. However, when we accept Christ into our lives, we possess life; “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom 6:23. There is no way an individual will miss heaven if he or she has eternal life abiding in him or her. Christ in us, the hope of glory. This understanding tells of the importance of living a Christlike life. Which of these is more desirable: living anyhow and confessing your sins and entering heaven or living and growing into Christlikeness?

A Christlike life guarantees eternal life (John 6:54-58). This message is far more demanding

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compared with the “get saved and go to heaven” mentality. We must grow into sonship and show forth the glory of God. What this means is that we ought to know and have Christ Jesus in us, who is eternal life (1 John 5:20-21).

Paul advised Timothy to pursue and possess eternal life; “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” 1 Tim 6:12. Christ must be our desire, and we must get to the point of declaring that we no longer live, but Christ lives in us.

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## CHAPTER VI

*Upholding righteousness*

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### ***Upholding righteousness***

Neither Jesus nor His Apostles ever touched brick and mortar. It is never recorded in scripture that any of them ever raised an offering for a physical structure, since "...the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet" Acts 7:48. Judge this piece on the merit of the underlining spirit that, the priority has always been the direct improvement in the spiritual conditions and economic fortunes of the faithful. There is a certain craze to make a name for ourselves, at the expense of building the lives of the children of God. It is important that we get the foundations right by following the examples of the early church leaders who sought first the kingdom of God and its righteousness.

It is therefore incumbent on would-be wise master builders to carefully ascertain the accuracy of the foundation upon which they build: *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* Ps 11:3. There is no other foundation except Christ, the only true God and eternal life.

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*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness; and all these  
things shall be added unto you” Matt  
6:33.*

Clearly, there's the presupposition that, He was referring to certain things that were hitherto mentioned. God promises to meet our needs, and not the dictates of our greed. If there's lack in the house of God, then it is the consequence of one's prodigality.

You are a Christian if only you are imitating Him. To accept such an honor without fulfilling the conditions thereof could be likened to receiving the verdict of your beauty from a blind man. The vessel God chooses to use must settle this matter in his or her heart to make the kingdom of God and righteousness a nonnegotiable priority.

In a great house, we would find either vessels for noble, or ignoble purposes:

*“But in a great house there are not only  
vessels of gold and of silver, but also of  
wood and of earth; and some to honour,*



*and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" 2 Tim 2:20-21.*

The question is not about being used by God. The issue of being used for either of the two motivations is crucial. That which precludes us from being used for an ignoble cause is the mortification of the flesh. Truly, God can use a man and still dump him in the end. We are never indispensable in His sight. Even rags are useful, but due to their ignobility, they are discarded along the line. We are, but transient beings...

The bearer of the word of God must know what the scriptures are primarily meant for. It is not meant for the doctrine of prosperity (though God prospers His people), but to instruct people in the way of righteousness and to bring the children of God to maturity or sonship. The word is for the propagation of truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, and

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training us to live God's way:

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" 2 Tim 3:16-17.*

Any emphasis apart from these cardinals is either willfully or ignorantly misplaced, and as such leads to a deadened conscience, and numbness of spirit.

We have not been called to create broadways for the unrepentant. God's word has not changed and will never change. The narrow way is still valid and will remain so. Only a few find the narrow way:

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" Matt 7:13-14.*

It is important that the vessel of God understand that many are called but few are chosen. As pure gold is scarce relative to glorified pebbles, so are true Christians amongst nominal ones.

The Apostolic legacy is an eternal rebuke to our lukewarmness. Since God eschews a middle-ground posture, He even prefers we are cold, to being lukewarm:

*"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" Rev 3:15-16.*

It is in the state of lukewarmness that a few must excavate the depths of scripture to expose shallowness, thereby bringing about the spiritual renaissance of many. By ushering in light, some will cease to stumble. Away with utilitarian religion and expedient Christianity that uses God to our own ends. God is both a

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means and an end in Himself. We are to live for His glory, and very few understand this.

To contain and be garbed in the glory and fullness of the divine is wisdom so high and encrypted. Embedded therein is the insatiable desire for Him, which ultimately leads one to the conclusion that we were made for his pleasure. They that desire to know, must have regard to the penned truths of the man of Tarsus:

*"...we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" 2 Cor 4:7.*

The vessel of God must be jealous of the glory of God. The perversion is so great that one who is in the right standing with God must constantly endure the contradictions of men. There are times we weep, not for their actions towards us, but for their wickedness towards God. I am a living witness of man's depravity wherever I go. It sometimes calls for one to resign to his closet to exude some precious

liquid from his eyes. To be dry-eyed in these times is a manifest token that one has forfeited the privilege of sharing in God's grief, and is being spiritually delusional. Paul knew the depravity of man and had this testimony to give:

*"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" Acts 20:31*

Diligently, I have searched the law and the prophets, and concluded that it was a common trait in the prophetic tradition, for the prophets to be "against" God's People:

*"...And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house" Ezek 2:4-6.*

God had to spiritually sanitize His house, before getting to the heathen. By the epistles,

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our understanding is deepened in that, we can only punish any disobedience when our obedience is complete:

*“And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” 2 Cor 10:6.*

History has it that Charles G. Finney was sent to “professing Christians” and he had revivals all his life. That is why judgment must first begin at the house of God:

*“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?...” 1 Peter 4:17-19.*

A warning has already gone forth that:

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching*

*ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” 2 Tim 4:3-4.*

The sword of the spirit is not meant for scratching the itching ears of reprobates, but for making evident the deeds of darkness by casting forth light into every situation.

Dispositional, false prophets speak according to the idols in men's hearts, due to the idols in their own hearts (Ezek 14). Hitherto, to divert the hearts of God's people to the pursuance of idols qualified as a capital offense punishable by death:

*“... And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee” Deut 13:1-5.*

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It is not in prophets to please men but to pay allegiance to God by speaking what He wants them to hear.

*"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" 1 Cor 1:23-24.*

I read that years ago, a church had the inscription "We Preach Christ" on its wall. After some time, weeds started growing and covered "Christ". The "weeds" have sprouted up and overshadowed that which is needful.

The sting of death is dead, for Christ has ushered in light and immortality through the "foolishness of preaching". It is a truism that "when the hammer of logic and the fire of human zeal fail to open the stony heart, unction will succeed" (copied).

*"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of*



*preaching to save them that believe...Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" 1 Cor 1:21-25.*

*Because of the hour*

***Are you prepared for Christ's second coming?***

**Please note that...**

The first Adam disobeyed God and because of his disobedience sin entered humans, resulting in the spiritual death and separation of man from God:

*"Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned...So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life" Romans 5:12-13, 18.*

The last Adam (Jesus Christ) obeyed God in order to take away sin from the human race:

*"But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8.*

Your part of the arrangement is to receive the grace or gift of God's salvation by faith (Romans 4:16-17).

You must understand that faith without works is dead, so God expects you to obey and receive this free gift (but costly) salvation with your free will:

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" John 1:12-13.*

The most important decision you must make now is to be born again (John 3:1-8). Being born again is to repent of your sins and to submit yourself to be baptized by immersion (and not by sprinkling) as well as receive the Holy Spirit:

*"Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:38.*

The grace of God is not a license for you to sin, but rather to receive strength to live in obedience to God's word (Titus 2:11-14). You, therefore, have to (as a matter of necessity), live

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a holy life and walk as Christ did, and not to live in hypocrisy:

*"However God's firm foundation stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are his, and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness" 2 Timothy 2:19.*

*"Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:3.*

If you walk in the light of the above scriptures and make 2 Peter 1:2-10 your guiding principle, you will never live a defeated Christian life. Moreover, you will be found in Christ at His glorious appearing. I however caution that you beware of people who preach Another Gospel, Another Jesus and Another Spirit as in line with 2 Corinthians 11:1-4.

For more information, please contact us via the  
follow address:

Revealed Oracles of God  
P. O. Box WY 423, Kwabenya  
Accra, Ghana-West Africa.  
[feikoabparimah@gmail.com](mailto:feikoabparimah@gmail.com)

### **Titles by the author**

- A message to those at the crossroads
- Waxing strong in Spirit
- Broken vessels
- Bread baked in hell
- Awake, and Christ will give you light
- The cry of Apostles and Prophets
- Making your calling and election sure
- Bargaining for pure gold
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*Because of the hour*