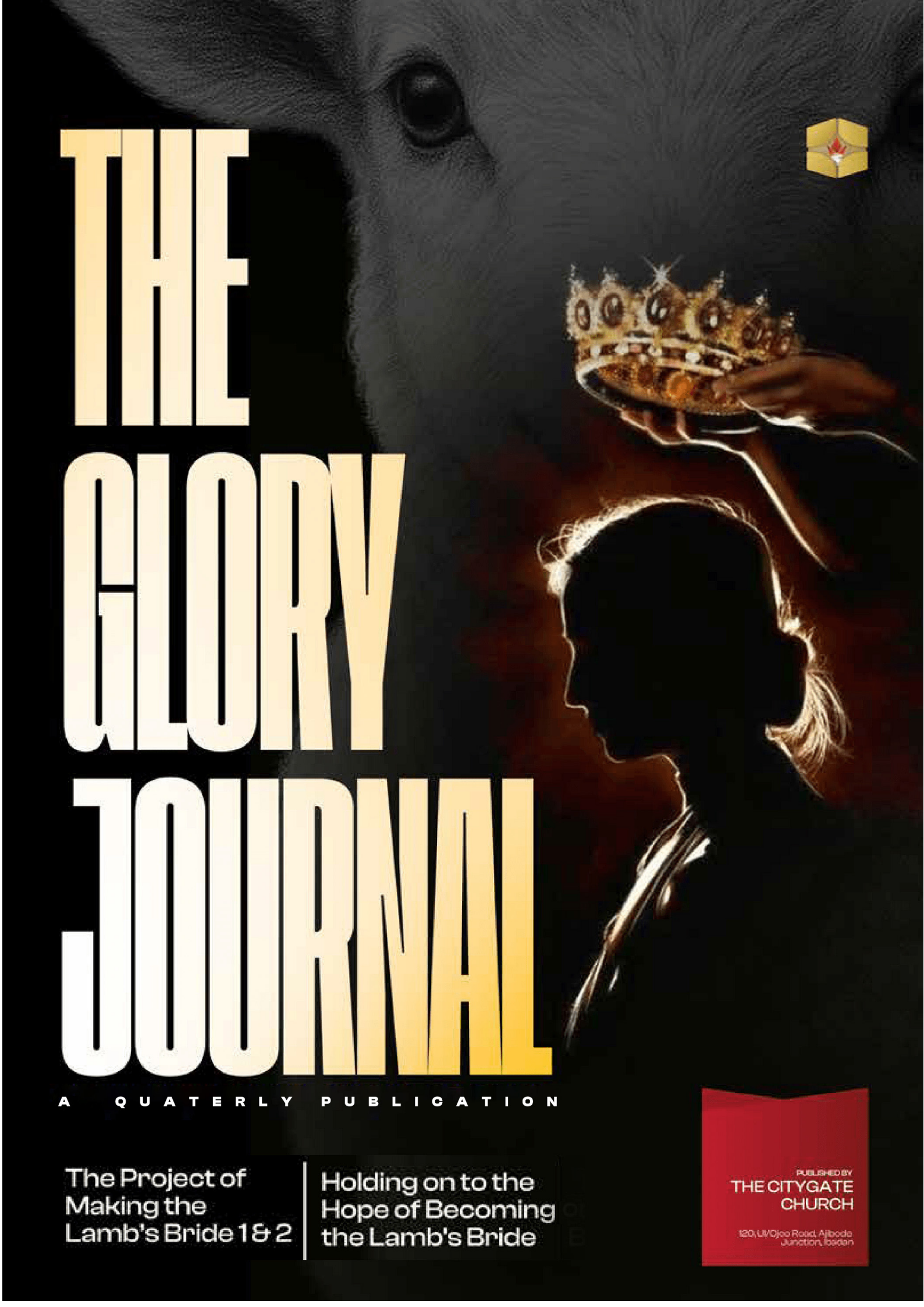




THE GLORY JOURNAL

A Q U A T E R L Y P U B L I C A T I O N

The Project of
Making the
Lamb's Bride 1 & 2

Holding on to the
Hope of Becoming
the Lamb's Bride

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EDITOR'S CORNER

We often spend our lives building things – careers, families, and legacies. Yet, there is a far older and more profound project underway, one that began before time and will find its fulfilment in the age to come. It is the emergence of the Lamb's bride, which Scripture reveals has “made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7; 21:2). The Lamb's bride represents a people who have made themselves ready, not just for a destination, but for a Person.

Too often, it is easy to settle into a version of Christianity that is comfortable. One that reassures us of heaven, yet does not press us toward transformation. But the messages captured in these pages remind us that there is much more.

This issue of The Glory Journal invites you to look beyond the surface of our daily walk and consider the framework of God's eternal project. We explore the reality that our earthly experiences, including marriage itself, are shadows designed to prepare us for an eternal union with the Lamb of God.

Ultimately, the teachings and exhortations in this issue lead to a call to grow beyond the basics of faith and to yield ourselves to the process of becoming the Lamb's bride. This call is even more vital today, as we are in a season that requires us to hasten our alignment with what God is doing – preparing a building in which He can dwell. A building that is also the bride of the Lamb. This is why Revelation 21 uses the bride and the Holy City (the New Jerusalem) interchangeably, portraying a body of believers as God's dwelling place.

We must, therefore, take a sobering look at the signs of our times and the necessity of enduring to the end to inherit all things in God, because the time is short.

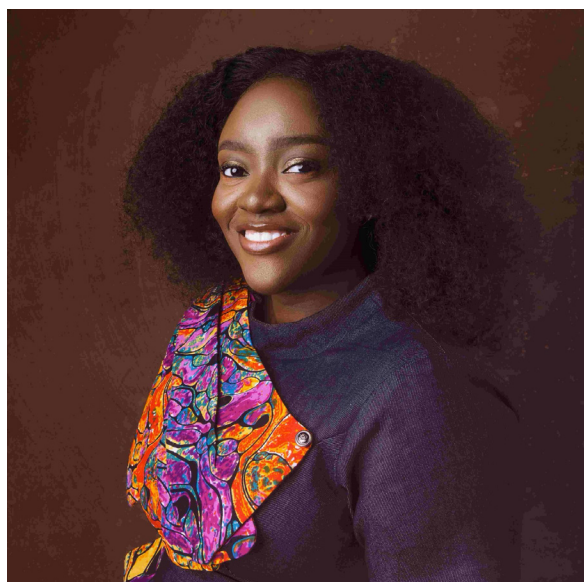
As you read through these articles, my hope is that your heart will be circumcised by the Word and your eyes opened to the beauty of the bridal call. I pray that we all respond to the invitation to yield to the process of becoming a dwelling place for our God. May you find the grace to align with the purpose God is revealing in this season, and the strength to pay the price for what He wants you to become.

Enjoy the journey.

Ayandola Ayanleke
Chief Editor

EDITORS

- Caleb Olaonipekun
- Nifemi Orimabuyaku
- Elizabeth O. Adeyemo
- Ibukun Osinoiki
- Lydia Mopinleola Ewuola
- Titilayo A. Adebajo



THE PROJECT OF MAKING THE LAMB'S BRIDE

■ Pst Dimeji Elugbadebo

One of the things God is doing in this season is giving us a clear vision of the framework of His eternal project: the emergence of the Lamb's bride (The Bridal Church). The book of Revelation is a prophetic book that describes the Lamb's bride as the perfection of God's habitation, as she will become a dwelling place for the Godhead. The summary of the New Testament vision is that God is preparing His bride as a building in which He can dwell.

This depicts our Lord Jesus Christ – the Bridegroom – grooming His bride before presenting her to God. In fact, the earthly marriage is a way to prepare us for the real marriage to the Lamb of God. In the world to come, there will be no marriage; we will all be like angels.



But being in an earthly marriage should make us desire the eternal marriage as bride to the Lamb.

In Ephesians 5:25, we see Paul admonishing the Church by comparing the love between a man and his wife to the love Christ has for the Church. Christ is the standard of love, and we must all be growing to attain the kind of love He showed to His Church.

The Lord Jesus takes the bridal project seriously, and that is why He gave Himself for it. In the same vein, men should give all of themselves to their wives. They are the first lamb in an earthly family. This is beyond him giving money and resources to the family; the commandment is to give 'all of himself to his wife'.

Paul went further in verses 26-27 to expound on the reason Christ gave Himself for the church; it is to sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word and then present her as a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she should be holy and without blemish. This shows that the end of the project is to have a glorious Church (Ephesians 1:4).



The new birth is the beginning of the believer's journey to becoming the bride. It qualifies them to be part of the body of Christ, but they are not yet part of the Bridal company. The highest calling of a Christian is to become the Lamb's bride. It is the highest level of consecration to attain on this side of eternity. The bridal project will not continue in the world to come. Therefore, the bride with her configuration will emerge before the close of this age.



As believers, the reason we should seek long life is to have more time to do obedience until God shows us His salvation. This salvation is not the new birth, but rather coming to an incorruptible state. The new birth is the beginning of salvation. In 1 Peter 1:9, we see that the scripture talks about "receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your soul". That means that salvation is tied to the end of our faith.

The end of salvation is the completion of the bridal project and the building of a habitation of God. Seeing the vision of God for the end should make you interested in the process. When you are not interested in what God wants you to become, you will not pay the price to become it.

Heaven is real, but getting to heaven is not the highest goal of the Christian faith. The thief at the right side of Jesus on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) made heaven by believing in Jesus. So by just believing in salvation through the name of Jesus, you are qualified for heaven, considering your spirit has been quickened. However, beyond this, your real calling is to be the Lamb's bride; it is also a calling to become God's Holy City, which is the dwelling place of God (Revelation 21). John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is not a literal lamb, so John was referring to the true identity of Christ in His soul.

God speaks prophetically, and we need to understand the symbolism of His speaking. In Revelation 21:1-2, we see that the holy city or the new heavenly Jerusalem came out of God (born of God) which means she has her origin in God, and nothing of the earth or human is found in her.

Heavens and the earth are states/places in God; they existed in God before He made the physical heaven and earth. God is older than creation, and He brought forth creation by the architecture of the life He has in Himself. The Lamb's bride will govern the new earth of the world to come; they will be the superior government of God.

When God chose to live in man, He was not without a house, so His desire is to share His estate with His creature, and He chose man as that creature. The whole creation is a product of God's desire to dwell in man. Man is a love project; every man is created to live out the life of God, and he will give an account to God at the end of his life. The Godhead is looking for a place to dwell in and who to share their estate with (Revelation 21:3).

Revelations 21:3 KJV

*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with
men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall
be his people, and God himself
shall be with them, and be their God*

The new birth begins the journey of becoming 'the people of God' with whom He will share His estate.

However, at the new birth, we do not have the laws of God in our minds, and they are not yet written in our heart.

Hebrews 8:10 KJV

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel After those days,
saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind,
And write them in their hearts:
And I will be to them a God, And they shall be to me
a people:*

The process of becoming the 'people of God' is when He writes His laws in our heart and in our minds. Becoming the people of God is knowing Him. Thus, the New Testament's thrust is knowing God, and this happens as He writes His laws in our hearts and in our minds. In Revelation 21:3, we see man becoming God's dwelling place.

Becoming the Lamb's bride is also becoming an overcomer. Verse 7 of Revelation 21 says that the overcomers will inherit all things (of God). The process of Sonship is tied to becoming all of God. The bride has inherited all the properties of the Bridegroom (Jesus), who possesses all things of God. Obtaining inheritance, in this context, means that you have done the works of God and you have received a reward.

You cannot become the Lamb's bride until you are immune to the second death. This second death is a total disconnection from God without the possibility of restoration. The easiest way not to be subject to the second death is to pursue the course of becoming the Lamb's bride; it guarantees immunity against the second death (Revelation 2:11).

Satan goes after those who have the potential of becoming the Lamb's bride more than he goes after other believers. He launched a vehement assault against the seven Churches in Asia, and as we read in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, those Churches were on their journey to becoming overcomers. Anyone who will become the Lamb's bride must have been separated from all things that constitute evil.

THE JOURNEY OF THE BRIDE TO BEING PERFECTED FOR WORSHIP

The book of Revelation is a prophetic book meant to perfect the Lamb's bride for worship.

- The Word of God,
- The testimony of Jesus, and
- Prophecy (Revelation 1:1-2).

These three things depict the journey of a believer to becoming perfected as the bride. We journey from the era of the word of God, to the testimony of Jesus, and to the book of prophecy, to perfect worship. The word of God, the Testimony of Jesus and the book of prophecy are portrayed by the seals, the trumpets and the plagues (which come from the vials).

1. The Seals: The seals refer to the Word of God. The opening of the first six seals unveils the Word of God, while the opening of the seventh seal transitions into the opening of the seven trumpets.



2. The trumpets: There are seven trumpets; six of which are trumpets of the testimony of Jesus, while the seventh (Revelation 10:7) unveils the seven thunders that complete the unveiling of the mystery of God. The trumpets are not physical sounds but messages that are needed to complete the work of making the Lamb's bride.



3. The plagues: The seven plagues are the judgment of the beastly kingdom. The Lord began the judgment of the beast as soon as the seventh trumpet sounded. Sadly, many men will become beastly in the days ahead. Therefore, we must pray that the message of the kingdom will go out so that men will be gradually sealed against the mark of the beast. This mark of the beast is a name or the nature (Revelation 13:17) of a soul that has finished the work of disobedience (complete worship) to God. They are given the mark of the beast, which disqualifies them from ever becoming the Lamb's bride.

The Lamb's bride cannot offer true worship until God judges the former order of worship in her. The unveiling of the plagues is to judge the worship of the world and the beast. Many of us worship other things other than God. What you worship is what you give your mind and soul to. You can be in church and still worship other gods, such as your work, pleasure, leisure, food, clothes, digital gadgets, or other pursuits. It takes the power of God to deliver a soul from the gods they worship. The Lamb's bride is God's house for worship. We must not love (worship) the world (1 John 2:15), and the only way to immunise ourselves from worshipping the beast (the world personified) is to be true worshippers of God (John 4:23-24).

The Book of Revelation was written with our dispensation in mind. God wants to do a short work to prepare the Lamb's bride until she finishes the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus, and then enters the state of adornment.



THE LAMB'S BRIDE IS THE CITY OF GOD

Revelation 21:9-11 shows the unveiling of the Lamb's bride.

Revelation 21:9-11 KJV

- (9) And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*
- (10) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*
- (11) having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

The angel told John, "come up hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife", but what John saw was a city, affirming that the Lamb's bride is also the City of God. She has the glory of God, which is the light that God uses. Reading further, in verse 23, we see that the city has no need of the light of the sun, moon, or candle – only the glory of God lightens up the city.

Light, in this context, is an understanding; it is both an education and a conversation, meaning the Lamb's bride will come into an understanding that is shared amongst the Godhead, which Paul in his writing, called "the manifold (many-sided) wisdom of God" - Ephesians 3:9-10.

Furthermore, we see that the city has twelve gates, named after the twelve tribes of the children of Israel (Revelation 21:12-13 & 21). These are not physical tribes or gates; they represent the natures of God that will be the composition of the Lamb's bride. There are also dimensions of names in God that the Lamb's bride must inherit. The names of the twelve tribes are slabs of righteousness in God which the Lamb's bride must attain. They are the properties that mark the city's inhabitants as God's people. The Lamb's bride is a Church that gives pleasure to God.

The throne of God is domiciled in the city of God. The river of life also flows out of that city (Revelation 22:1). The city coming out of God is Zion, which is the habitation of God. The purpose of the gates of Zion is to birth the natures of God in the soul (Psalm 87). Each gate name refers to the process of the formation of the Lamb's bride; they are the constitution of the nature of God which must be reproduced in the Lamb's bride.

The city also lies in foursquare according to Revelation 21:16, showing the portraits of God's life or the perfect work of God. The Lamb's bride is the perfect work of God; she is the offspring of God's exact nature. All her dimensions are just and right - justice and righteousness, which are the foundation of God's throne. Everything about God is righteous and it can be found in the Lamb's bride, who is a product of God's righteousness. Therefore, everything about her is perfect.

LESSON FROM ABRAHAM'S LIFE IN LOOKING FOR THE CITY

The call to inherit the kingdom of God (the eternal dominion of God) is the call to become the Lamb's bride. Abraham, the patriarch, spent his days on earth dwelling in tents while looking for the city whose maker and builder is God (Hebrews 11:8-10)..

As a father of faith, he was blessed with wealth enough to build a city, but he heard and yielded to the bridal call. The call to be the Lamb's bride has existed since the beginning of this age. God began it from Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and He will end it in the garden called the Lamb's bride.



Another lesson in Abraham's life is that he moved by faith through obedience. He earned the title of the father of faith (Romans 4:16) by obedience to faith, which is also doing righteousness, or yielding to God's righteousness.

The promise of becoming the city of God is the promise of eternal life. Abraham heard the call of God, and he became a sojourner and chose to stay in tents. He chose to live a conservative life despite having the capacity to live larger. He trimmed himself down so that his heart would not be overwhelmed with the burdens of the world.

The strength of the vision of God's project should determine our response. There are decisions we should make because of God's project or commandments. We see how Abraham was looking for the city while alive; unfortunately, many of us in the New Testament era are not looking for this city; we are looking for heaven. The reason many in the Church today are not looking to be made the Lamb's bride is that they have not been circumcised. Christ's teaching circumcises the heart so that it can see God – see the visions of God to build a habitation for Himself and raise the Lamb's bride.

The Circumcision of the Heart Through Christ's Teaching

The true message of the kingdom begins with the teaching of Christ, which circumcises the ears, opens the eyes, and converts the heart to begin yielding to the process of making the Lamb's bride. The kingdom's message is not primarily about taking over the earth, because the earth is passing away; you can subdue physical territories and still not bring the earth under subjection. It takes great spiritual maturity and thronic power to bring the earth under subjection.

The message of Christ, which is also the preaching of sanctification, or the gospel of sanctification, is to sanctify our hearts and make us ready to yield to the vision of God. The message makes us a virgin; it turns our soul from being joined to a harlot (Babylon) to being the Lamb's bride. The message makes a lover of God out of former lovers of this world (James 4:4). It stops friendship with the world, which limits believers from answering the call of the Lamb's bride. This is why Paul the apostle warred to present a virgin Church to God (2 Corinthians 11:1-2).

Being born again does not qualify you to be a virgin Church. When you still use the natural sense to relate with your brethren, you are not a virgin Church. You will also need to take away worldly lust to open your heart to the call of becoming the Lamb's bride. The Lamb's bride are daughters of Zion, who have been washed from the filthiness of the flesh, although they still require further cleansing. Deliverance from the filthiness of the flesh is a major qualification to become part of the Lamb's bridal company. The message of Christ (sanctification) must spread in the Body of Christ, so that virgin souls who will strive to become the bride of God can be raised.

God will judge Edomic (flesh) nature in us that sells birthright for venison. Such nature includes the habit of staying awake when watching movies, but sleeping off in Church when the message is going on, when reading the Bible or when praying. It takes a lot of power to make the soul interested in the pursuit of God. This is because Satan can use anything to keep a believer from responding to God. In fact, he can use Church activities like prayer, fasting, ministry, and physical service in the house of God to distract a soul from becoming the Lamb's bride. In Matthew 13, Jesus expounded on the different hearts' responses to the gospel of the kingdom. When you hear the gospel of the kingdom, and you don't understand (Matthew 13:19), it is Satan putting up a system in place against your understanding.

The Lamb's bride seeks righteousness ordinances; she is the product of Jesus' side (John 19:34). Remember that His side was pierced; it is the same way Eve was made from the side of Adam (Genesis 2:21). When Jesus' side was pierced, blood and water came out, which are for purification. Blood and water are the doctrines of the Bridegroom, who is the Son of God. In 1 John 5:6, John wrote that Jesus came by water and blood; these are doctrines to raise the Lamb's bride: the water is the word of God, and the blood is the testimony of Jesus as seen in the book of Revelation. The piercing of Jesus' side is the process by which the bride will be infused at His side.



THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING AND THE MAKING OF THE BRIDE

The gospel, according to Matthew chapters 24 and 25, is a summation of the activities of God in the end times. In both chapters, Jesus likened His coming to virgins preparing to meet the bridegroom as well as the days of Noah. We can further explain these two chapters using the book of Revelation to show the making of the Lamb's bride.

Jesus provided the signs of His coming in chapter 24. One of them is that persecution will increase for Churches holding the truth. He also mentioned that many Christians will be offended (verse 10) and they will betray their brothers. As hatred and offences grows, many false prophets will arise (verse 11) to deceive those whose expectation from the Church and Christianity has been dashed. It is easier to deceive those who are offended, who have lost trust in people, and whose hearts are open to Satan.

Satan will use occasions to set stumbling blocks for many Christians to abort their journey. Today, we see betrayals common in the Church; this is evident in the inability of many to keep covenant relationships like marriage and brotherhood. Believers find it easy to insult other believers, ministers of God and the Body of Christ on social media. So, there is a general weakening of the soul as iniquity abounds (verse 12).

Every believer needs to keep growing and endure to the end (verse 13); otherwise, they will be subject to these evil natures. Salvation is attributed to enduring to the end, and *the gospel of the kingdom is the message that prepares the Lamb's bride to endure till the end*. Matthew 24:14 says that the end will not come except the Lamb's bride is ready.

The end will only come when 'a people' have been made ready for the bridegroom. The end of this age will not come because of the events (signs of the endtime) happening; it will only come when the project of making the Lamb's bride is completed. Just like in the days of Noah, the rain did not come until Noah completed the building of the ark of salvation. What will bring the end is that 'a people' have been made ready for God. The rapture or the last trump will not sound until the people of God, called the Lamb's bride, are ready, and they manifest on the earth as we see in Romans 8:19.

Romans 8:19 KJV

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

The sons of God are those who will minister to God and bring many to God. Just like Jesus was raised to bring sons to God (glory), the sons of God are also raised to bring many to God.

THE PROJECT OF MAKING THE LAMB'S BRIDE II

 Pst Dimeji Elugbadebo

Inheriting the promise of God's life is becoming the Lamb's bride, which is our vision and call to inherit the everlasting, eternal kingdom of God. Being an heir of eternal life is the prerogative of becoming the Lamb's bride and having access to the promise of God.

The calling of God before time began is to build a habitation for His eternal rest. The Godhead (God, the Word and the Holy Ghost) are all Beings of rest, and they want to dwell in 'a people'. The raw eternal life of the Godhead is a state of rest; they rested in themselves before creation, it is the laws that weaved up their nature. Out of mercy and love, they chose to share their estate with the creation, called man. So, they entered into creation to begin the project of building a habitation for themselves.

Creations of the present heaven and earth are part of God's original program to build a habitation in man (Isaiah 66:1). The present heavens are strata of God's throne. It is an arrangement of the entities or beings called thrones. There are beings whose names are called thrones, but all the entities in heaven are thronic. God dwells in the midst of the highest thronic angels called the cherubs. Psalms 103:19 talked about an everlasting kingdom ruling over the heavens, meaning God condescended from the eternal dimension into the everlasting dimension (the heavens) to bring forth creation so that His kingdom will rule over all. This actual kingdom of God is higher than the present heavens.

Psalms 103:19-22 KJV

(19) The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

(20) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

(21) Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

*(22) Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion:
bless the LORD, O my soul.*

The angels who excel in strength (verse 20) are the highest class of angels who occupy the heavens of God. The places of dominion (heavenly places according to Ephesians 3:10) are principalities, powers, might, and dominions (Ephesians 6:12). From the highest to the least, they all constitute the construction of God's throne in the present heavens, and the kingdom of God rules over them all.

The two dimensions (heaven and earth) that God created in Genesis chapter 1 are for the expression of God's kingdom, and they have their expression in the present heavens and earth. God's plan for putting the first man in the garden and giving the tree of life as a promise was to express His kingdom, which was His plan before creation. God dwelling in the midst of angels (cherubs) was meant to be temporary, and He would have transitioned into Adam and his sons as God's tabernacle if man had not fallen.

Thankfully, Jesus came to fulfil what Adam fell short of, which is man inheriting God's life and becoming a building of God's rest. Jesus, unlike Adam, is bringing many sons to glory.

Revelation 21:1-2 KJV

(1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

(2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The highest project of God for this dispensation is to have a place of His rest and a bride for His Son. In part 1 of this series, we see that the Lamb's bride is also the habitation of God. Additionally, it is the highest state of consecration that a Church can attain while on the earth; beyond the earth, this is no longer feasible. The first picture that we see in God defining a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness (2 Peter 3:13) is a bride adorned for her husband. The Holy City and the New Jerusalem, which is domiciled in God, is a heavenly city of the world to come. Revelation chapters 21 and 22 describe the first two chapters of the program of God in the age to come.

The bridal project will be concluded in this present age to open the age to come. The highest pleasure a believer can give God in this present age is to become a Lamb's bride. What God is doing in this age is a mission of the Lord Jesus Christ to raise the Lamb's bride. The tabernacle of God is His dwelling place, and prophetically, the tabernacle order is the system God uses to build His house and prepare His bride. The tabernacle of Moses was adapted from a priesthood beyond the present—the Melchizedek Priesthood. The Levitical priesthood, which was not meant to last forever, was a shadow of the Melchizedek priesthood. We see that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, and Levi also paid tithes through Abraham (Hebrews 7:9-10). Everything in the Levitical priesthood was originally abstracted from the Melchizedek priesthood.

According to Psalm 114:4, the real tabernacle pattern is an everlasting eternal one; not only for the present world but also of the world to come. Jesus is a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

(Hebrews 5:6). The pattern of the tabernacle of God is an everlasting pattern for raising the priests of God, who are also the Lamb's bride. All the journey through the tabernacle should end in becoming the Lamb's bride.

Revelation 21:3-7 KJV

(3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

(4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

(5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

(6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

(7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

The tabernacle of God is the bride, and the Godhead is looking to take former things away from her. What will close the age is the perfection of the bride, not nuclear bombs. The final piece of the revelation of Jesus, which is the vials, will be released when the Lamb's bride is raised. The purpose of the vials or the plagues (Revelation 21:9) is to destroy the kingdom of the beast that currently rules the earth, i.e., the ten-toed kingdom (Daniel 2:41-44). The Lamb's bride will be brought into full worship of God, and the beastly kingdom will be judged.

Revelations 21:6 is more of a promise after the vision of what we would become was shown. The bride, who is the project of God in relation with Jesus and His Church, is the overcomer, inheriting all things makes you God's tabernacle. The bride is God's son, but to Jesus, she is His bride. In biblical language, we start as daughters but are perfected as sons, reflecting the perfect blend of God's feminine and masculine traits. The fulfillment of God's eternal vision is seen in how the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb in Revelation 22:1 are both in the bride. The Holy Ghost—who is wind, breath, and also a person—is the Spirit of the Godhead, invisible yet given to us not to be withdrawn, but to fulfill the mission of bringing a bride for Jesus and for the household of the Godhead.

Our Lord Jesus and the Father are in heaven bodily while the Holy Ghost is on the earth, and present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-8). In heaven, He appears as the Seven Lamps of fire before the throne, while on earth His presence fills all things. There are different dimensions of life in the Holy Ghost. So, He can relate with those who are babies, and also relate with those who are becoming spiritual, divine, and eternal. Though eternal, He does not act as the Eternal Spirit with everyone. Like the Others in the Godhead, He can reduce Himself to any level, for His unique assignment is to dwell in man who has become dust/flesh.

The Holy Ghost dwelling in us is a high display of meekness. His dwelling in mortal or dust shows God's meekness. At times, we ignore Him when He speaks, and some even feel they can command Him to do things. Yet He was primarily fashioned for the project of raising man as a habitation to God. The Holy Ghost may relate to you in your flesh or carnal, granting you gifts and miracles, but you cannot be the Lamb's bride unless He is revealed to you in the context of the bridal project. He works in you until you inherit His divine nature. A believer may be anointed and not have the inheritance called the name of the Holy Ghost that signifies presence and the seal of His activity at a higher level.

When Jesus was leaving the earth, He sent another Jesus; Someone in the same capacity as Himself (John 14:15-16). The Holy Ghost is a powerful Spirit. He is the One here on earth to work all of the names of the Godhead in the Church. In Greek, "Comforter" means Parakletos, which is the same idea God expressed in Genesis when He made the woman a help-meet for the man (Genesis 2:18). A woman is meant to be a strong spirit who helps a man. Likewise, the Holy Ghost is the engine room of God's activity. At every level of our journey, there is a level of the Holy Ghost we have.



The Godhead gave us their Spirit as a token of love, and He will remain with us forever (John 14:16).

Being carnal, as Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 3:1, is not an insult; it is a state. The Holy Ghost is present in you even in your carnal state to demonstrate a life. A child of the Holy Ghost has learnt some of the ways of the Spirit – the basic rudiments of faith in Jesus. Paul described this in 1 Corinthians 13:11. The next phase after being a child is to grow into a man and put away childish things; this begins in Christ. The more you grow, the more you access all the lives in the Holy Ghost. He is the custodian of all the life in the Godhead. The secret of the Lamb's bride is that she has journeyed into the highest life God has for His Church. Therefore, not every believer will become the Lamb's bride. Our Lord Jesus, the Son, is at the right hand of God, while the Holy Ghost's assignment is to take the Church and join her to the Godhead. For the project of making the Lamb's bride, the Word (John 1:1-14) became flesh (man), attained His eternal state back while He was on earth as a man, and now He is no longer the Word but the Son of God—the Lamb on the throne.

A lamb is innocent, harmless, and defenseless. It is part of God's specification for atonement in the Levitical priesthood. Its blamelessness is a prophetic metaphor for God's kind of life, and its blood represents life, for the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). The Lamb shedding His blood means He is giving His life that is holy, harmless, and separate from sinners.

All of the entities in the Godhead are Lambs. The project of making the Lamb's bride would never have seen the light of day if the Son had not paid the price of becoming a man. The disciples were the first Church of Jesus on the earth. When He chose them, they were people of all kinds of natures and weaknesses, but we see the love of God at work. We also see the condescension of a King in heaven into the lowest estate of the earth to choose a bride. Jesus created a pattern that He walked in and then revealed that pattern as a template for man to journey into the Godhead. Once there's a pattern, it's easy to reproduce a product. Jesus authored eternal salvation and created a template for us to follow to the Father.

John 14:16-17 KJV

(16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

(17) even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.



After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came down to build the bride into the Godhead state. Due to God's love for man, the Holy Spirit came into us when we were like prostitutes by nature and conversation. He bore with our excesses and began transforming us. As we journey, we move from our past toward the bridal state. The Holy Ghost will remain in us and grow us until we become a habitation for the Godhead. At new birth, we are not yet fully habitable. We don't have eternal life yet; it is still a promise. What we received at the new birth is a measure of God's life, not its fullness. To have eternal life, we must have sat on the throne and have come into the fullness of the Father and the Son. It takes God's building to bear the full Holy Ghost; the fullness of the Spirit is tied to coming into eternal life. Carrying the full Holy Ghost requires a stature that only sons of God can handle.

A part of John 7:37–39 was fulfilled in Acts 2. Joel 2:28 prophesied an outpouring of the Spirit in the last days, and Peter, interpreting what happened at Pentecost in Acts 2:17, said God would pour 'out of' His Spirit. That means the full outpouring did not happen in Acts 2. Thus, the full fulfillment of John 7:37 described by Jesus will come when the Church enters the fullness of the Spirit.

In the beginning, before time, we had God, the Word, and the Holy Ghost (Genesis 1:1); in Revelation, we see God the Father, the Lamb, and the bride – with the Spirit in the bride. The highest potential of the Holy Ghost is to raise the bride. He may work miracles through you, yet you are not being made the bride. That is why God's ways cannot be learned from textbooks. If He intends you for something higher, He will deny you certain works because He knows you can be distracted by lofty things. The Lord has a way of hiding his sons, just like He hid Jesus for 30 years. At 12, Jesus could have been very popular – He was already engaging the leading tutors of His day. However, because of God's purpose and the weight of His calling, He kept Him hidden and was thorough with Him.

In God's perspective, the higher the purpose, the more death or denial it requires. Man, naturally, chooses what is appealing to him – money, fame, or even just 'going to heaven' – over becoming the Lamb's bride. Man sees success in life as glory, but true glory is carrying God's name across the earth. Many of us have not yet chosen this path; we must decide this quickly as God is opening the way again for us to choose. To be the Lamb's bride, you must have dove's eyes (Song of Solomon 5:2) – eyes that cannot look at two things at once. Your gaze must remain fixed on the Lamb. As Matthew 7:13 reminds us, it is a narrow way, even for the body of Christ, not just for unbelievers. Becoming the Lamb's bride is a way for believers, not for the multitude.

That is why if you read the gospels, you will see that Jesus' core teachings were for the disciples and not the multitudes. For instance, the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) was a message for disciples. Jesus saw the multitudes, yet He went up to the mountain and His disciples came to Him before He started teaching the Beatitudes. And even in discipleship, there are stages. You can be a disciple of milk of the word (apostles doctrine) and not respond to the narrow way (Matthew 7:14). You may even advance into discipleship in the name of the Son (the revelation of Christ), but fail to respond to the Father. Ultimately, discipleship climaxes in knowing God.

To start your journey to becoming the Lamb's bride, you need to leave the multitude and join the disciples. In Matthew 5:1–2, Jesus withdrew from the multitude and shifted His ministry from the ministry of the hand (acts) to the ministry of the face (ways). Jesus interacted with the multitude based on acts, but He went further with His disciples by teaching them His ways. The life in Matthew 7:14 is God's life as a promise. To every life, there is a way, and the way is what the Godhead will teach the Lamb's bride. The book of Revelation contains the secret of perfecting the way to the tree of life.

In truth, compared with other companies, the bride will be few. Not all will be part of the bride (the one whom the Bridegroom desires to marry); some will be part of the bridal company and accompany the bride. You may follow the bride or help organise the wedding, but that does not qualify you to be the bride. Revelation 22:14 mentions having the right to the tree of life; that right is access. When God sent man out of the garden, He placed two cherubim at the gate with a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24), because if you access the way, you will ultimately reach the tree. However, some companies will be shown the way to the tree of life to partake of it (Revelation 22:14). The Lamb's bride is a way- woven being.

The exact way of the Lamb (the Bridegroom) has been reconstructed inside her. The greatest thing that can happen to you on earth is to become the Lamb's bride, to align with God's vision on the earth. The highest treasure you can take from this earth is to be the Lamb's bride - gentle, meek, and glorious as He is. Therefore, you should use every situation that comes your way to gain life.

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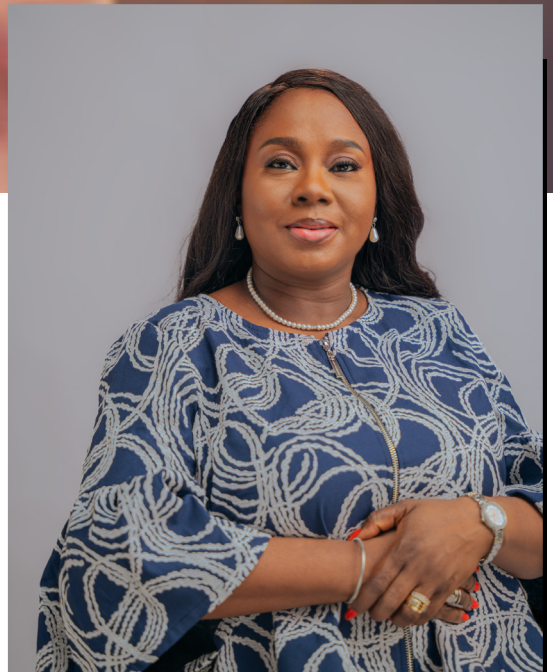


HOLDING ON TO THE HOPE OF BECOMING THE LAMB'S BRIDE



Pst Fisayo Elugbadebo

God constantly tries to convince His children to see why they need to give themselves to His speaking, His purpose for them, and the reason why they got born again, which is to become His bride. However, souls like convenience, which is the reason an average believer doesn't even think of becoming the bride. In God's perspective, every believer has the capacity to become His bride, and He wants them to know that the final destination of their faith is not to escape to heaven, but to sit on the throne as the Lamb's bride. God wants us to see and own this vision so that we can journey with Him. Satan has given man different shades of false hopes, and whether we believe it or not, every soul is living for a particular hope. Even in religious settings, there are false hopes packaged and laced with different religious vocabulary to suit self and flesh.



However, God still wants us to hit the mark of the high calling, so He is committed to painting the hope to us, for us to lay hold of it. For instance, Ephesians 1:17-18 recounts a significant prayer in our walk as believers. Paul, in this scripture, was praying that the eyes of the understanding of the Church in Ephesus would be enlightened, so that they would come to know the hope of God's calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Every believer is likely conversant with the prayer in the aforementioned verse, and we probably pray it, but only a few know that one of the answers to this prayer is God making us see the things that pertain to being the Lamb's bride.

The reason God created you is for His calling. Being amongst the bridal company is beautiful, but then, beyond the bridal company, God wants you to be His bride. So, God shows you the riches of His glory by painting a clear picture of His bride. If you don't know what the calling is, you will run a false race. God is not only interested in showing you the hope of His calling, but He also wants to give you His riches. To think of yourself as a billionaire who has an extensive influence over the nations of the world, a hope must first be painted in your mind. Although this riches isn't compared to the true riches reserved in God for you, let's use it as a relatable example. What God does is to first make you know the calling that can make you a billionaire; thereafter, He will show you the glory attached to being a billionaire, that way, you will have the strength to pursue it. This implies that the hope of God's high calling is first painted to you, then they show you the riches of coming into it.

Those riches need to be painted to us constantly because Satan daily projects other forms of riches that can entice the soul. When we get to see a glimpse of what the bride will look like, we will throw the world away. Currently, because of how much Satan has blinded men, we can't see God's riches even when the message of being the bride is being preached to us. But when we get to see it, we will desire the high calling. Ephesians 1:19 talks about the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe. That power is transformative; it is the power that can change a man from dust to glory. If eyes are not opened, if the riches are not preached, one cannot be raised. It is the transformative power that raises a soul from carnality into glory, but we will not experience that power if the hope of the calling is not being painted through preaching. So to become the Lamb's bride, eyes must be opened, and as that is being done, the soul is being raised.

This reminds us of the story of Elijah and Elisha (2 King 2:9-10), where Elijah told Elisha, "If you can see me, you can have it."

That is the principle of the kingdom, and that is why our eyes need to be opened, so that we can experience God's transformative power that can transform a dust soul into a bridal soul. People have different callings and hopes on earth, but there is something in the Father's heart for you - the Father is looking for a bride for His Son, and He wants you to be that bride. The Father is the reason the Holy Ghost was sent to you, so that you can be made ready for Jesus. You may have gotten distracted from the main agenda and calling of God, but heaven still hopes that, as a child, you can journey back to God and become His bride; this is the greatest desire of the Father for you. For this agenda, God sends thousands of souls to the earth every day; sadly, they get taken over by different callings and agendas structured and put in place by Satan to weary man's journey to God.

It is not easy to find people whose desire is to be like God; the majority of men, even in the Church, are seeking "other things". It is serious work for man to seek what heaven desires; it is a heavenly investment and God always wants to see His commitment come to fruition.



Knowing God's calling is a journey. God paints the calling first so that we can journey with His purpose and vision. The picture of where God wants us to be must be clear. Abraham had the resources to build cities, but the calling dictated and guided how he lived. He decided to live in tents, even though he could build a city.

The vision of the calling should regulate our lives here on earth. We will journey better when we see clearly. "To see", is to have understanding. Becoming a bride and inheriting eternal life is also an understanding; that is why we can't trivialise understanding. Satan wants us to joke with understanding and focus on other things. But we must wage a good warfare, and start counting understanding as true riches. In the realm of the spirit, a man is not weighed based on how much money or material possessions he has; rather, he is rated based on the understanding that he possesses. The clearer you see, the more you find grace to journey.

Investments in Becoming a Bride

A major investment in becoming a bride in this season is studying the Bible. There is a lot of strength and encouragement that comes from just reading through the scriptures. Heaven has already installed a software in every believer such that when you open the Word of God, you will see yourself gaining understanding. If you do not read your Bible, the software installed in you will be dormant. Heaven is just waiting for you to open the scriptures for what is within to be activated.

In 1 Kings 19:6-13, we see that after Elijah ate, he laid down as if nothing had happened, but something had actually shifted within him. He walked in the strength of that meal he fed on for another forty days and nights, not just to the base but to the top of the mountain. And that was where the Lord visited him with a still small voice. Apart from studying the scriptures, receiving and carrying out God's instructions will also significantly contribute to your journey as a bride.

While Elijah was burdened with the fact that Jezebel wanted to kill him, God kept giving him instructions. In fact, there was no correlation between his complaint and the instructions God gave him. Jezebel was Elijah's major issue, and he was gradually becoming depressed out of fear, but God did not address his issues, rather, He gave him instructions on what to do in line with His will. This could have seemed like God was not sensitive, but He knew something Elijah wasn't aware of. Imagine the shock on Elijah's face when God told him that he still had 7000 men who had not bowed to Baal.

As a believer, we are sometimes like Elijah; we complain that our needs are not being met, but the right attitude should be to listen to what God is saying, know His will, and in the process of obeying His will, our needs will gradually be met. At the end, Jezebel didn't kill Elijah, and just like Elijah overcame, you will surely overcome all your present troubles. God oftentimes focuses on higher purposes when dealing with His children, because He knows that soon all our current troubles will be sorted out.

It is in the process of fulfilling our God-given assignment that our fears will be handled. Just like Elijah, God knows how to sort us out while fulfilling His higher calling over our lives. At the end of the day, we will be well-sorted out as we fulfil His high calling (cf: Matthew 6:33). However, if we are sorted out and we haven't fulfilled the high calling, we have not really been sorted out. We must trust the process, lay down the things that are troubling us before God, and keep chasing the high purpose. At the end of the day, we will look back at our life after some years, and we will see that all those things have been sorted. We must also endeavour to set God first. Meanwhile, setting God first is not abstract; it means God taking a paramount place in your life. That you are willing to consider Him first in everything, including how you spend your money and time. By doing so, God will make you see through this world. All the beauties of this world are vanities (Ecclesiastes 1:2). However, it takes the authority of preaching by preachers sent by God to help men see vanity as indeed vanity. Without power, a soul cannot reckon this world as vanity.

A VIRGIN SOUL

In the journey to becoming a bride, a virgin soul is a requisite. A virgin soul is one that is free from the hold of vanity, which includes the pride of life, lust of the flesh, and lust of the eyes; this is what Gentiles spend all their lives on (Matthew 6:32). It is only by revelation, that a man can see the vanity in this life. Nothing in this world can satisfy the soul. Scientifically for instance, it has been proven that some people become more depressed after major achievements. The reason is due to the process they went through to get some of those achievements. The only thing that can satisfy a man's soul is God. So, you should put in all your energy and all of your soul to get God. It is now - at this stage of your life - that you need to seek the Lord. If marriage is your only hope, by the time you get in, you will be discouraged. Use your life to get God. Seek God at the peak of your strength, now when you have the time. God wants you to avoid distractions this year; He wants you to focus and set Him first.

Esther went through six months of purging and six months of adorning. The kind of purging Esther went through is the same purging that is required to remove vanity from our souls. Until veils are taken away, we cannot see God. A lot of people can't see God yet because their thoughts are still carnal. When John saw the world, he was wowed, but in Revelation 22, he saw something more glorious, which is the city of God. So, the reason you think vanity is glory is because you have not seen the actual glory. When you see the hope of His calling, all other hopes will become nothing.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 KJV

- (16) Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.*
- (17) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*
- (18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Currently, you only have one problem, which is the veil. The veil needs to be taken away, so that you can attain unto Christ, and thereafter come into the allocation of the Father and the True God. There is profanity lurking around in our souls, and we need to be free from it; we shouldn't be like Esau who did not see the inheritance, but was only seeing porridge. We are quick to point fingers at him, but in different ways, we behave like him (Hebrews 12:15-17).

That is why Apostle Paul was praying in Ephesians 1:17-19 for the enlightenment of eyes. This is because it is easy to replicate Esau's manner of life; he did not see the riches of the inheritance, that is why he chose food in the place of the inheritance.

Paul was praying so that when issues of life come to negotiate the Church in Ephesus out of the inheritance, they would be wise enough to see through God's lenses. After you have become a virgin, the journey continues (Matthew 7:24-25 KJV). The instructions and commandments you hear should not just live on the pages of your notes; rather, they should dictate how you live your life, handle finances, marriage and attend to daily life activities (Proverbs 6:20-24). Current trends in society highlight that people don't know how to hear and do instructions appropriately.

Moreso, if one can't diligently obey instructions given by man, how will such a person adequately hear and obey the voice of God? When God first spoke to Samuel, he heard the voice of Eli. That means God's voice came to him in Eli's voice. Before one journeys into being able to discern and receive the instructions of the Spirit, he must first be cultured to promptly receive and obey the instructions of man. The reason we are sometimes slow to respond to God is that we have trained ourselves over time to disobey or delay natural instructions. For instance, if you fail to obey instructions from your pastors, leaders in Church and even at work, you are training your soul to be slow in responding to God.

Proverbs 12:1 gives us a template, it emphasizes that the love of instructions gives knowledge but anyone who hates correction is stupid and lacks refinement. This shows that wise people are people who hear instructions and do them. Those who don't like instructions that structure their natural life can't keep instructions from God. We live by instructions, so speak to your soul to keep them.

Instruction is the way of life; that is, the way life is supposed to be (Proverbs 6:22-23). That is why as a parent, you should not be afraid to instruct your children. And when they are still very young (below 10), you need to focus on training them well and flogging them when necessary, because a time will come when you can't use the scourge on them again, but what you have installed in the early years will stay with them. Instructions are part of life; there are instructions in family, in Church and in the nation. The soul was not made to be lawless, it was made to be governed. One of the ways you know you are growing well is in how well others can lead you, and how many instructions you can take without resistance. That is maturity and meekness in the spirit.

John 21:18 KJV

(18) Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.

When you are much younger in the faith, you can live on your terms and complain about every instruction; this shows a sign of immaturity. However, when you grow spiritually, you will be the one seeking for instructions, because you know it is the way of life and therein lies meekness. Do you think Jesus ordinarily wanted to leave His glory and come to the earth? But the Father gave Him an instruction and He came into darkness. This is how you become wise virgins.

Some instructions will come your way; they might look ordinary, but inside them is life. Lilies are raised in the valley, so, the things God will work in you, He will work in the midst of contradictions. Psalms 23:4 shows us that God is with us even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. But you must also know that God is with us with a rod, and not ice cream. That rod is for instruction and correction.

This year, you might go through some tribulations; in the midst of those tribulations, light will shine. The bride is a lily, and the lily is pure. The tribulations and afflictions that will come our way are to purify us. One attitude we must have when going through all these is in Romans 12:12, where the scripture speaks about rejoicing in hope, being patient in tribulation and continuing instant in prayer. Many people don't like trials and tribulations, but this year, your response must be rejoicing even in the midst of tribulation. Moreover, you need prayer because it is in prayer that you will draw strength. So, as you engage the scriptures this year, you must also endeavour to pray without ceasing.

And as you pray, you will come to understandings that will help you thrive in the midst of the tribulations (Luke 22:43). The Apostle Paul, for instance, was able to go through his tribulations and afflictions well because he laboured in the place of prayer, which further distilled into understanding, that is why he saw and called himself the prisoner of Christ. This emphasises the importance of prayer in our journey as believers.

1 Peter 1:3-6 KJV

*(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
(4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
(5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

You must greatly rejoice in the hope of His calling. Your rejoicing should not just be external; going through the issues and challenges of life must be with great rejoicing. Knowing fully well that “the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” – 1 Peter 1:7 KJV.

2 Cor 4:16-18 KJV

- (16) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*
- (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*
- (18) 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.*

One of the major ways to receive salvation supply in this season is by consistently rejoicing and cherishing the hope of His calling. Ask yourself what the Lord is instructing you to do after reading this message. Be eager to hear and do all of His instructions.



WEEKLY PROGRAMMES

Sunday Worship Service:

The Morning Dew - 8:00am
Feast of Glory Service - 10:00am

Word & Prayer

Tuesday - 5:00pm

The School of Christ

Thursday - 5:30pm