

PROPHECY!

Proclaim Your Own Victory

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Introduction

This life is not an accident of nature; it did not come about by spontaneous evolution. Any thinking person who understands a little bit about how chance works will know it is not possible for this world to have come thus. God in heaven created and manufactured everything. His products have a proper way they are meant to work and a proper way that they are meant to be used.

For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him. Eccl 8:6

God has a manual for life. That manual is the word of God that has been given to us in the Bible. If you will get the best of life the way the Lord made it to be for you as His child, then you have to use His manual as instructions with which you will live.

Good understanding produces favor,

But the way of the treacherous is hard. Prov 13:15

Good understanding is indispensable if success in life is to be sure. You need to know the proper procedure or way by which a thing is to be done, otherwise your way becomes hard. Things become difficult. Issues that God ordained for you to easily accomplish will take you a lot of

hard labour or a long time. In their departure from Egypt for the Promised Land Israel spent 40 years for a journey that should have taken a few days. Why? They lacked *good understanding* of the ways of God. If you apply the rules of handball in football, you will get a red card in the first few seconds of the game. The reason, again, is because there is a proper procedure for every event under the sun and the procedure for handball is very different from that of football.

When you learn the proper procedure for a matter, the battle is half won already.

What we are about to expound is a critical procedure that the Lord ordained for us to use to obtain victory in life, to create a beautiful future for our lives.

1. Spiritual Things Are Real

The first point I want us to get very clear in this exposition is that life is not controlled primarily from the physical realm but rather from the spiritual. This is a fact I like to tell believers again and again since they seem rarely to realize it. My favourite way of showing this is from the life of Saul, king of Israel.

Saul died by a self-inflicted wound after he was seriously wounded in battle by the Philistines, yet when we look at what happened from the spiritual end we see that it was God Himself that killed him.

'So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, because of the word of the Lord which he did not keep and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore He (the Lord) killed him'. 1 Chr. 10:13,14.

The things that are seen in the physical realm first occur in the spiritual. There are no accidents in life; what you see as accidents are properly orchestrated spiritual events. If you read the story of the death of Ahab, king of Israel, you will believe less in chance occurrences and more in spiritual determination.

Ahab went into battle disguised as a common soldier so that the Syrians would not recognize him. However, he had persuaded Jehosaphat, king of Judah and his ally, to go in his own royal outfit. The Syrian king had given instructions to his men to look out for the king of Israel, pursue after him and kill him. As it turned out, Jehosaphat who was the only king they saw in the battlefield was mistaken for Ahab, they went after him but he narrowly escaped after crying to the Lord for help.

The point in this story relates to the death of Ahab. His death was determined by the Lord and was the reason why He led Ahab into this battle (see 2 Chron.18:19). Despite the fact that he disguised himself, the death that was already ordained for him in the realm of the spirit came to him 'by accident'.

*A certain man drew his bow **at random** and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor. So he said to the driver of the chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the fight, for I am severely wounded."*

...and at sunset he died. 2 Chron 18:33-34

He was wounded by *chance*; the man who shot him was shooting at nobody in particular. The arrow entered into a narrow gap in his armour. The probability of all these

happening is so small, yet it happened. That archer may never know he was the one who killed Ahab.

My point is that there are no true accidents. Life is controlled by spiritual forces and if we want to get far in life we have to learn how to control those spiritual forces. When Solomon said that time and chance overtake all men, he was explaining what it appears like when things are viewed *under the sun*, that is without looking at the spiritual aspect. In fact, what he was saying is that nothing that can be viewed as physical strength can help predict accurately the outcome of things in future. He was saying that your physical strength is no guarantee of success.

Listen my friend, what will become of you tomorrow will be a result of the input you are putting into the spiritual realm today. Remember that we said that there is a proper procedure for every event in this life; your effort must therefore be to proficiently tackle the spiritual aspects of life. If you do this, despite the fact that you may have physical setbacks, time and chance will happen to you to cause you to succeed.

2. God's Superior Method

What we are discussing in this book is how to shape your destiny; how to positively affect your future. I took time to explain things in the previous chapter for you to know that there is an appropriate procedure or way for doing things. You cannot just do it the way you like or the way that seems right; you must learn of the proper procedure from the word of God. Remember that He said, *"for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways..."*

What we need therefore is to learn the ways of God; it is the very thing that we need to take us to where we should be. We must take the time to learn it. The Lord Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon thee and learn of me..."* (Luke 11:29).

Many things that appear reasonable before men are actually very wrong while many of the solutions to the problems of life that God prescribes and which will work appear foolish. That is why you must apply your heart diligently to the wisdom of God.

To shape your future, and destiny, what is God's way?

"for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways..."

“for as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout...

“so shall my words be which goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty ...without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it”. Isa 55:8-11.

In a short form, what the Lord was saying is this, “when I want to make things happen on the earth, I send my word from heaven”.

Do you see it? God's way for producing effect on the earth is by the word sent from heaven. Man's way is to struggle, to use the arm of flesh, but God says, “I call those things that are not as though they were, and they come into being” (Rom 4:17).

This is the point I'm endeavouring to get across: when a result is needed, God's way of getting that result is to give a word; He speaks to the situation.

How does it work?

“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, ‘be thou removed’ ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith”. Mk 11:23 KJV.

Jesus was here telling them of the way of God which we saw in Isaiah 55. He was saying that the means by which you will get results is to do what God does – speak to the situation. Faith speaks; it is inactive until it is converted into words.

“For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses (i.e., speaks), resulting in salvation”. Rom. 10:10.

Salvation is not a theoretical, theological or mystical thing. It is very practical. It means the sick is healed, the bound delivered, the poor gets rich, the desolate finds a mate. That is Salvation. If you need to be saved, engage your mouth gear. Salvation comes by that. The power to dictate the direction of life rests in the tongue (James 3).

Your faith must speak; words are the power capsules of the spirit. When you say nothing, you get nothing. Paul said,

“but having the same Spirit of faith according to what is written ‘I believed, therefore I spoke’, we also believe, therefore we speak” 2 Cor 4:13.

Anything you cannot speak boldly, it is because you don't really believe it. That is why you will not get results.

In this exposition, we are focusing on how to shape your destiny.

There is a saying in the Yoruba language that says, "if you throw water ahead of you, you will step on cool ground". It really applies to what we are examining today; if you want your tomorrow to be cool, you must start and continue to throw the water of the Word ahead of you into it. You must learn to speak into your tomorrow.

3. 'Words' is it!

Words are powerful forces that control the realm of the spirit. I noticed how the Lord commanded blessings to be imparted.

*"Speak to Aaron and his sons, Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. **You shall say to them...**" Num. 6:23.*

He did not say "you shall pray for them" or "you shall lay hands on them". Rather He said, "you shall say to them". Words, and that is it!

Jesus Christ told the disciples after His resurrection that the events they had witnessed were once spoken as words. He said, *'These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you...'* Lk 24:44.

What you will experience tomorrow must be spoken as words today. You need to know it. That is why you must speak words into your tomorrow in every sphere of life where you expect good – in your marriage, your business, carrier, health, children *etc.*

Words are powerful.

With words, Adam formed the characters of every animal.

"... the Lord God formed every beast... and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and WHATEVER the man called a living creature, that was its name" Gen. 2:19.

God gave the man the power to determine the characters of the animals. The names were not just for identification. Names reflect character, and this is why God changes the names of people when He's changing their lives – Jacob to Israel, Abram to Abraham, Simon to Peter, *etc.* By giving the power to name to Adam, He was giving him control over the beasts of the field.

In a like manner, He has given you control over your destiny. What names are you calling your tomorrow? Hopeless? Difficult? The-struggle-continues? Or do you just say nothing? Saying nothing is equivalent to saying the wrong things, as it is written, 'he that is slack is brother to him that destroys' (Prov. 18:9). If you don't call your tomorrow anything it will lack character, and disorder will take over.

Do you call your tomorrow like me, abundant? Do you join me in calling it long, many days, prosperous, healthy? Whatever you call it, that it will become.

Your tongue is where the power is.

'With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied: He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat it's fruits. Prov. 18:20,21.

James has described the tongue as the steering wheel of a vehicle. No matter how large the vehicle is, the direction of movement is determined by the way the driver turns this steering wheel. In a like manner the course of your life, he said, is determined by what comes out of your mouth.

Please note that the direction of a vehicle is not determined by where it is coming from or where it had been. Rather, the determinant of the direction is the way the driver turns the steering wheel. In the same manner, the direction of your life is not determined by your history but where your tongue is forcing it to go.

4. The Words That Carry!

It is not every word that comes out of people's mouths that have strong spiritual effect. Some have no effect at all. There are many people who just go around talking because they heard someone else talk, and their talk has no effect. That is why I am talking this time about the words that have weight.

The impact a word will have in the spiritual realm is determined by the 'weight' it carries. The weight of a word is determined by the depth of conviction that is behind it. This conviction is in turn determined by the knowledge and understanding that the speaker has concerning the issue at hand.

Notice that the Lord Jesus said, in the passage on Mark 11, that to have what he is saying the one speaking "*shall not doubt... but shall believe...*"

Now, doubting or believing are not things that you just make up your mind to do. Both of them are based upon the presence or absence of supporting evidence. Of all the evidences presented to you, the ones that you choose to accept determine whether you will doubt or believe.

If you are going to say something and not doubt that it will come to pass, you must have a report to back your statements. Even the Lord said, *“I do nothing of my own, as I hear so I speak, then the father doeth the works”*. Jn 14:10. The reason He did not doubt was that He had a report from the father.

You cannot just make up your mind to believe your desires or your wishes; there must be a report that is giving the solidity of not doubting but believing to your heart.

This is the point: as a child of God, the words that you will speak that will carry weight, that you will not doubt, must be based upon a revelation of God's word. It must be based upon something that the Lord has planned, that you have discovered, and that you have chosen to believe. I am not necessarily talking about a verbatim repetition of scriptures. I am talking about saying something because of what the Lord has said.

...He Himself has said “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” so that we confidently say “The Lord is my helper I will not be afraid...” Heb. 13:5,6.

Note that we confidently say, not doubting, only because *“He Himself has said...”* That is what gives faith to your heart. That is what gives weight to your words.

Words that will carry weight to shape the life of the child of God must be in accordance with the word that the Lord has spoken. This is the only one that will endure and overcome all the other forces of life.

The first assignment therefore is to find out what He has said, to find out 'the law and the testimony'. It is not to run away shouting and declaring, but to first sit down to hear.

'Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and DRAW NEAR TO LISTEN rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools...' Eccl. 5:1.

'Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thoughts...'
Eccl. 5:2.

What are you to declare? What He has said! Once you find that out please start declaring.

5. Prophecy! Son of Man, Prophecy!

I heard someone preach that “prophesying is for the orderly arrangement of physical things to be conformed to that in the spiritual”.

'And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book, and he said to me, "Take it and eat it ...". And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it... And they said to me "You must prophecy again concerning many peoples and nations, and tongues and Kings'. Rev. 10:9-11.

There are things that have been written down in God's book for you that you need to eat and then “*you must prophecy again*”. When you are prophesying, you are declaring boldly what God will do in your life. Once you start doing that, your environment begins to react. The angels begin to move. The scripture tells us that they respond to the voice of God's word. The rearrangement commences, and will continue if you do not stop speaking those words. Don't ever forget that continuity is very vital in spiritual things. If you stop, it is as if you never started.

What has He said about your life generally?

He said *'with a long life, I will satisfy him and let him behold my salvation'* (Ps 91:16).

So you can boldly say, "I will not despair, I will see the goodness of God on this earth.

I will live long.

I cannot die young.

I cannot be poor.

He has said *'behold I cause prosperity to flow towards you like a river and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream'* (Isa. 66:12).

I boldly say 'I cannot be poor', 'I cannot be average'.

He said, *"by myself I have sworn that in blessing I will bless you."* Therefore I realize that no circumstance can frustrate my blessing in this life. I declare boldly, "I will prosper even in a land of drought.

He took away all my sicknesses and my diseases and by His stripes I am healed. I have the vitality of health. I am well; no sickness can dwell in my body. I have been made whole by the death of Jesus.

6. Do Not Say

The problem with most of us is that we have a greater tendency to repeatedly affirm our current situations. We tend more to speak in accordance with what our eyes are seeing in the circumstances that surround us. We do not understand that our tongues were not meant to describe our current situations but to give direction to the future one.

Now, that is what is called doubt. Doubt simply means you have accepted the report of your current situation even though it disagrees with what God is saying your situation will turn out to be. In doubt, you begin to speak against the spirit of faith.

When God called him, Jeremiah had a good explanation for why the assignment of God would not prosper in his hands. He was speaking according to the problems of his circumstances. It was the voice of doubt.

Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD!

Behold, I do not know how to speak,

Because I am a youth." Jer 1:6

The Lord cautioned him quickly and taught him the principle of faith.

But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Jer 1:7

What Jeremiah was doing is what most of do every time (bear in mind that it is a natural thing to do, so everybody does it); we deduce what the outcome of a thing will be from the things that have happened in the past and from what is going on currently. We predict the future from our past rather than from the word of God.

Doubt predicts the future from the experiences of the past while faith *determines* the future from the spoken word of God.

Doubt says, "my business will not take off because I have no capital." Faith says, "my God shall supply all my need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Doubt says, "I can never have children because the doctor said that I have a low sperm count."

Faith says that "My wife will be a fruitful vine in my house and my children will be around my table."

Faith says, "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

What I see everyday are believers who spend all the time complaining about almost everything. They complain about power supply, about the Police, about the roads, and of course about the government. The President is bad, his

ministers are fools, his wife is too outspoken and the legislators are all rogues. Of course, as far as they are concerned, these people are the reasons why they are not succeeding.

Things cannot ever work well with them; they have too many forces arrayed against them. That is their claim. If you bring to their attention the people who are doing well under those same circumstances, they come up with excuses: his father is related to the governor; his father left him a large estate; or he is simply lucky. They are failing and cannot move forward because other people and circumstances have decided so, so they have come to accept.

The word of God to Jeremiah was, “DO NOT SAY...!”

Stop repeating your problems. The Lord is not interested in hearing about them. He wants you to focus on the promise that He has given to you and to declare it.

Stop saying “I am a Nigerian or I live in the third world and the situation of the economy is bad.”

Stop saying “I had three abortions and my womb is damaged.” (The power in the blood of Jesus to forgive sins is the same one that heals every consequence of past sins).

Stop saying that “My father is not rich and I have so much family responsibilities that I cannot get married.”

Stop saying "I am not beautiful; no one will marry me."

Stop saying "I am too short."

Stop saying "I am too tall."

Stop saying "I cannot speak."

Stop saying "I have a poor education."

Stop saying "I know no man."

Stop saying "I am intellectually dull."

Stop saying "I was born with a genetic defect."

Stop saying "no rich person has ever come from my lineage."

Stop saying "I am not used to it; I don't know how to do it; I am not bold; I am shy."

Stop saying "even if God were to open the windows of heaven, shall this thing be?"

Every reason you give why your life cannot get better is an excuse you have given to Satan to hold you in bondage. Remember that words are very powerful and that they control what happens in your life. All these excuses are usually spoken from a convinced heart so that they are usually quite powerful.

Do also bear in mind that these reasons will appear real and many people will convince you about them. The doctor will tell you they are real. Your best friends may be there,

telling you to stop wasting your time. All these people think they mean well, but they are actually ruining your life with their words. Do not let them.

Your life is yours and the responsibility to guard it is yours. Stop agreeing with the people who tell you that you will not succeed. Agree with God and you will succeed.

Faith is not to deny these physical facts; it is simply saying that they are inferior in power to the fact of the word of God. That is why you do not speak about them. Imagine a man that has ten thousand naira worrying about the two hundred naira he is owing. He is not denying that he has a bill of 200 naira to settle; he just knows that it pales in the face of the 10,000 that he has. He will be a fool to go around telling stories of woe about a 200 naira debt.

So it is with you.

Stop empowering the devil with your excuses.

Parents, Caution here!

One thing I have observed a lot of times, and I am sure you have too, is parents that call their children all kinds of names. You here things like, “this boy is useless”, “you will never amount to anything”, “This child is irresponsible”, “what a dull boy”.

Now, these things are said for real reasons. The child has really done something that seems to deserve such a comment. The only problem is that, just as we have already seen, those words are not really comments but are prophecies, and it will come to pass as they have said.

I am aware that they do not think so; they actually think that they are warning the child and trying to get him or her to change. However, the outcome of that child's life is not determined by your desires or your intentions but by what you say.

Your tongue was not given to you to use to comment on your child's behaviour but to describe the future you want for him. Every child does something foolish once in a while; if you affirm his foolishness or failure, it will stay with him. If you rather prophesy upon him what you desire, it will come upon him just as you have said.

I don't ever call my children foolish. The Bible has described that my seed is mighty and that is what I call them. I tell them (even when they do not understand what I am saying) that they are the head and not the tail. It can never come out of my mouth that my child will not amount to anything. If you are angry spank the child, but don't ever, ever, ever, say your child is anything but the blessing of

God that has made you rich and which will not add sorrow to you. Tell them what God has said they are – mighty on the earth.

The time they offend is when they need to hear it more. The time they fail an exam is when they desperately need to be told how great their future is, and it will come to pass just as you have said.

7. Prophecy! Again I Say Prophecy!

I am a light to my generation.

He satisfies my mouth with good things.

My youth is renewed as the eagle. That means the so-called diseases of old age are not mine.

I don't become dim in the eyes.

I don't get degenerative bone conditions.

I retain the beauty of my youth.

I don't need a retirement plan, because I don't plan to get tired. He has said I shall be fruitful even in my old age.

I am marrying a beautiful woman, a virtuous woman. A dangerous woman is for one cursed by God. Eccl. 7:26, Prov. 22:14.

My husband is blessed because of me.

My steps are ordered. I walk in God's plans. My paths lead me into God's plan.

I love righteousness. I hate wickedness.

The love of God dwells in me. I love Jesus. I love His gospel.

I love to obey.

My wife shall be a fruitful vine in my house. (I shall be a fruitful woman in my husband's house.)

My children will be around my table. They are the brightest kids there are. They are the head and not the tail. They will amount to what God has created them to be. They are not troublesome kids but are kids of righteousness. Beautiful and desirable, wanted everywhere.

Abundant prosperity dwells in my house. No matter the country I dwell in, I will prosper and flourish.

I am not anxious, I do not lack anything good.

I am favoured in everything that I do and at every place that I reach.

I am the future of my country.

This nation prospers because of me.

The future of my nation is bright. The fact that I am alive is a proof.

I am a prolongation of the days of Jesus.

I exude blessings everywhere I go.

I carry the life of God.

The spirit about my person brings good. I don't become poor.

I repel evil. No evil shall come upon me.

My journeys are blessed. No accident is my portion. I return safe every time I travel because the Lord causes me to dwell in safety.

My goods are safe.

I love at all times. I don't hate.

I am a blessing. I am a giver and not a beggar.

I give, I give, I give and I give.

My body obeys the word of God: Life and vitality.

Abundant health is mine.

My prosperity does not depend on my environment. My environment responds to the life force within me.

The one that marries me is blessed. The world will call her lucky. After all I am a huge channel of blessing.

When I pass through difficult times I will not be scorched, I will not be drowned.

The Lord is continually by me.

I walk through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil.

I live till old age

By reason of the success and wealth that will be upon me kings will rise at my coming. Princes will bow down.

To me, mountains are highways, express roads.

I ride above them.

Challenges are stepping-stones.

I cannot be moved.

I am not covetous. My loyalty to Jesus Christ and his word cannot be bought.

I always obey God. I cannot loose because I always obey God. I cannot loose.

Those who know me are connected. They have a friend in high places.

I am not afraid of tomorrow. Why?

The Lord is my portion, my Strength, my Salvation. The lifter of my head.

I pray for the welfare of this country that I live in.

It is well with this nation. You are getting better in the name of Jesus.

The government is getting better in the name of Jesus.

God is showing you mercy.

Your economy is improving.

The Lord is taking charge of your affairs to uplift righteousness.

Wickedness will be punished in the midst of thee.

You will become a worldwide story of economic recovery.

No longer will the wicked and the rogue be called generous in you.

Robbers will meet with destruction. Killers will be killed. The arrow of the wicked will enter their hearts.

You will be a delightsome land, and all that rejoice and pray over thee will know thy peace and thy prosperity.

I step into the cool ground of my future.



Dr. Bankole Olusina, fondly called Pastor Bankie, is a teacher of the Word of God. The emphasis of his teachings is the separation of the Church from the world by obedience to the truths of God. He is a member of the Light of Christ Alumni Fellowship (LOCCAF) Ministers Forum, and the Pastor-Teacher of Kingdom-Word Ministries which he founded with his wife and partner in ministry, Ufuoma.

Kingdom-Word Ministries is a non-denominational teaching ministry based in Enugu, Nigeria. Activities of the ministry include weekly Bible classes at the ministry office, publication of free teaching tracts and books, radio/TV broadcasts and organizing teaching seminars in various towns and cities.

Pastor Bankie's audio message digital catalogue includes hundreds of messages which are available on CDs and MP3 CDs.

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