



Kunle MINISTERS

Simple truths about

**Sin
Grace & Faith**

*Be free in every way, both now
and forever*



Kunle Ministers

**SIMPLE TRUTHS
ABOUT SIN, GRACE
& FAITH**

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PREFACE

WHILE growing up as a young Christian, particularly in my undergraduate days, I heard some teachings from preachers who seemed to focus on sin and how barely anyone (or even they themselves) would make it on Judgement Day, they would often say "The wages of sin is Death" and "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid" and so on. On the other hand, I also heard other preachers who emphasised grace, and how Jesus has done everything and some even implied that you do not need to do anything. These often say things like; "You are not under law but under grace" and "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ".

These two groups seem to be opposite in many things, but they both had one source of information; the Bible! And most of the scriptures they paraphrased were often from the book of Romans, like all of those mentioned above, so, I decided to go study the Bible (starting mainly from the book of Romans, using the KJV, NIV and AMP versions, and then an English dictionary) to see and convince myself of these things so I can have my destiny and eternal judgement in my own hands so to speak.

This study took roughly about a month, but I was amazed at the things I discovered and of course, it changed my life, what I have discovered seemed to me to be the very first or next thing a person should learn once they have decided to be saved. At the end of the study, I felt inspired to do a voice recording of the discoveries I had made so anyone could learn from it, the recording was simply going to be a gathering of scriptures that talk about sin, grace and other related things, and then a few conjunctions of mine that would give the study a logical sequence and continuity. I shared the recording with a few friends and there were some testimonies.

The main body of this simple, short and concise book contains my findings. All Scriptures are going to be taken from the King James Version of the Bible, so as to get the most accurate meaning as we can and not interpretations. Words in *italics* and **bold** fonts are emphasized for attention. Words within scriptures are emphasized by **bold** fonts only, words in *italics* within scriptures are already italicised originally from the KJV Bible.

CHAPTER 1

Simple Truths

(How Truth is Identified and Determined)

THREE major ways we identify and determine the truth of a matter, (either consciously or subconsciously) are *Logical consistency*, *Empirical verifiability* and *Experiential relevance* and these three are interconnected. I heard of these three components when watching Ravi Zacharias speak at a conference recently and I agree with him. Let me speak briefly on these three. That a thought or idea is logically consistent, means it keeps making sense and does not contradict itself. Something that is empirically verifiable is something that can be observed with the senses and measured relative to previously known and established standards and for an event to be experientially relevant, it has to be substantial enough to affect the thoughts, perspective and decisions of a person that undergoes the processes of the event. Now, the truths we would be sharing in this book (about sin, grace and faith) however may not be quite empirical as they cannot be measured physically, but we would see logical consistency and of course, relevance to life as we consider these thoughts together, as I myself particularly waited for some years to have a substantial testimony of personal experiential relevance before sharing the truths in this book.

Seeing that we want to consider intangible things of the mind, heart and then actions (sin, grace and faith), we have to measure and observe them with intangible receptors and yardsticks. The same way you cannot stand beside your refrigerator waiting to receive a phone call with it or take a photograph using a microwave oven, that is the way we cannot perceive these matters in the physical, natural and visible only, we have to consider the heart and the spirit. We only see the manifestations of these things in the physical when they have been established in the spiritual, just as you stop by at an eatery to have a particular meal (visible) because you have thought and imagined it (invisible) before you actually did. So, in the following paragraph, we want to briefly discuss a proof of the existence of God, who of course is a spirit. I put that in this book mainly because of those who (claim they) doubt the existence of God, I say it's a claim because everyone really knows God exists, we only have those

who live in denial of the fact, mostly because of a past hurtful experience they had, in which they expected God to show up and it seemed He was not there. So, if you already believe in God, you may as well skip the next paragraph to the “Why the Bible” section, as the things in this next paragraph may seem hard to understand, and that’s how things get when people spend a long time pretending that there’s no God –Complex!

One reason people look for TRUth is so they can know in what to put their TRUst.

God is and is a Rewarder

Now, one common saying of those that say they do not believe in God is that, for all the evil things going on in the world to be going on on God’s watch, it either has to be that He is not omniscient or He is not good. But two variables that were not factored into that rationale is the place of the enemy, the devil and more importantly, the responsibility and authority of man on the earth. So instead of making a conclusion that God is wicked and acknowledging their bitterness against Him, they rather conclude that He does not exist and this option is also convenient to the minds and consciences of some people, because eradicating the idea of God eradicates the idea of accountability of wrong actions and of judgement. So, when people say they do not believe in God, what they really do not believe is not in the existence of God, but in His goodness. That is probably why Hebrews 11:6 had to specify that “...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” What people often have an issue with is the ‘rewarder’ part. Now, concerning the three components mentioned earlier in the very beginning of this chapter, a very important question is, why, and how is it that we use these criteria to *know* that something is true? How are we able to come to absolute conclusions about even abstract matters? A simple answer is that there is someone who made us and He put that ability and tendency in us; He is the source of logic! In fact, the word logic is from the Greek word, *logos*, this is the same word that was used in the text in John 1:1, which says “In the beginning was the word (*logos*), and the word (*logos*) was with God...” (the text *logos* was added in this reading). It is He that gave us the ability to know that truth is right, so that we can determine reality by it. One reason I think He did this is so we could have the same rules of cognition as He does, so He can truly say like He said in Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...” So, to use that ability of logic to try to prove

that He doesn't exist is intrinsically self-contradictory! So, when you ask "Does God exist?" I answer and say "That you can ask that question in itself is a proof of His existence". All you need to do to know that there is a Creator is look *inside* and look *around*, and that Creator is God! A third place to look is at the *things written* about Him and by Him. The God I am talking about is the God of the Bible, the Bible where it is written in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth". It is only from the Bible I have found accurate information about this Creator, our origin, our purpose and our destination (matters of destination would also be addressed in this book). And the reason I believe those things written in the Bible is because the Bible claims they are spoken by God, the God that I perceive exists when I look on my inside and when I look around; the Bible confirms what I know in my heart. Someone put it this way that what you perceive in the heart, in your environment or from others, and what you read in the Bible are *Internal*, *External* and *Eternal* witnesses respectively.

Atheists don't believe in God? No, God doesn't believe in atheists!

Why the Bible?

The following are some facts about the Bible you might need to know, even though I did not know all of them before I started believing in the Bible but I'm putting them here so as to help a reader who may need more facts than I did, in order to believe the Bible. The **first fact** is that the Bible is inspired by God. In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." And we see the importance Peter placed on scripture as he was relaying the event of the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain in which they heard the voice of God directly from heaven. As vivid that experience was, he said there is now a 'more sure word of prophecy' (2 Peter 1:17-21), that is to say, hearing God's voice from heaven is good, but the prophecy of scripture is better, he also mentioned that these prophecies were not by the will of man, but men spoke as they were moved by God's spirit. The **second fact** is that there are a lot of Bible prophecies (inspired predictions) that have been fulfilled to the utmost accuracy. A classic example is the set of prophecies that have to do with Jesus that talk about his birthplace, other places where he would be taken to while he is still a child and so on. But for easy reference, I will only cite some prophecies about his death as written by David. In Psalm 22, we see how the things David wrote as he was singing in prophecy, were manifested in the life of Jesus in Matthew 27, the writings talk about the kind of death Jesus would undergo and the different things that would happen while he is

being crucified, to the precision of his hand and feet being pierced, lots cast on his parted garment and so on. and we know that there are 28 generations between these two historical figures, David and Jesus (as recorded in Matthew 1:17). You can check as Psalm 22:1 = Matthew 27:46, Psalm 22:8 = Matthew 27:43 and Psalm 22:16,18 = Matthew 27:35. The other facts I would be stating here are natural, which makes them not as substantial as the first two that are spiritual; however, I believe they are consequences of the first two facts stated above. Our **fact three** is that the Bible is the most read and bought book of all time; hence it has the highest prints and is the book translated into most languages. **Fact four** is that many of the books written when the Bible was written are long forgotten, or at least definitely not as relevant now as the Bible is. You may find out and convince yourself about these natural facts from sources you may find reliable.

The reason I took us through those facts about the Bible (despite the fact that many readers might already have the opinion that the Bible is the word of God and is true), is because some of the things we would be looking at in the following chapters are things that sound too good to be true yet they are true. So, if you have not heard those things before, or if it is a truth of the Bible that you are not familiar with, you might get to a point that you want to ask, "Am I going to believe the Bible or not?" So, I just put those facts ahead so as to remind us and to reestablish that the Bible is inspired by God. I also recommend strongly that you have your Bible in front of you and then your writing materials, because all that this book is about is pointing out verses of the Bible to bring out some truths in the word of God about sin, grace and faith. I would want you to be like the people in Berea as it is recorded in Acts 17:11 that "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so". This is what I hope would be your attitude as you read from this book. Then, you might need to go over these things time and again, after now because when I saw these things in the Bible, I discovered that they are things that I needed to go over again and again in order to make myself surer of the things I had seen.

The Holy Spirit

Apart from, the heart or conscience and checking the Bible, you are supposed to check with the Holy Spirit in you. If you are saved, you have the Holy Spirit in you, He is the One through whom God inspired the scriptures and He is greater than our conscience as we see in 1 John 3:20 "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." The Holy Spirit also teaches you things as it is written in 1 John 2:26-27 "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and

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ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." Now when Apostle John wrote this, he was old, both in age and in faith, but as old and experienced as he was, he did not tell the saints to whom he was writing to take his words for it, he still told them to check their hearts and that the Holy Spirit in them would teach them. So I also am saying to you that you check the anointing of Holy Spirit in your heart if you are saved, but If not, the best thing I can say is that you check your conscience, because the law of God is written in everyone's conscience as written in Romans 2:15 "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

SUMMARY

- There are ways we identify and determine truth naturally, but we would need to look deeper in order to appreciate spiritual truths.
- The ability to identify and even look for truth was put in us by our Creator, who is God.
- We know about Him by the writings He inspired (the Bible), which tells us about more spiritual truths like those about sin, grace and faith which we want to consider in the following chapters.
- Apart from checking your heart and the Bible, if you're saved, confirm teachings you hear by the Holy Spirit in you as He is the One through whom God inspired the Bible, and if you are not saved, just check your heart.

CHAPTER 2

Law, Sin and Death (Manifestations of Death)

SIN is a violation of your conscience, a violation of God's laws. Sin is *doing* what you know is not right or *not doing* what you know you should do, and it affects your conscience because you know, as we see in the book of James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." So, oftentimes, you know when you have committed a sin. And the person that ultimately judges sin is God, the Creator. We would be coming across three laws (regarding sin) within the scope of our discussion, namely, 1.) the law God gave Adam 2.) the law God gave through Moses to the Israelites, and 3.) the law God wrote in every man's heart. Sin occurs when a man breaks God's law, in fact, we can say that where there is no law, there is no sin as it is written in Romans 4:15 says "...the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression" and the consequence of sin is Death; so, we would see the progression, Law, Sin, and Death quite often in scriptures, let us take a look at some, with emphasis on the progression we are trying to note.

God told Adam in Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not** eat of it: for in the day that **thou eatest** thereof thou shalt **surely die**." God declared in Ezekiel 18:4 "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that **sinneth**, it shall **die**". Romans 2:12 "For as many as **have sinned** without law shall also **perish** without law: and as many as have **sinned** in the law shall **be judged** by the law" (Verse 15 of this same chapter shows us that those that sin without law are those that sin by violating the law of God written in their conscience as against the law given through Moses). Romans 6:23 states "For the wages of **sin** is **death**...". Now you and I know that people sin every day and they do not literally drop dead on the scene of the sin, even Adam did not stop breathing the same day he disobeyed, but we would notice that he lived through the Curse from that very moment he sinned, till he eventually physically died. In Genesis 3:17 "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying,

Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;" So, we could say that the Curse is a manifestation of Death, but I will not try to define the curse any further, we would rather simply go through some other pronouncements of God over those that broke His laws.

*We would find this progression often in the scriptures; Law, Sin and Death.
When the first two are in place, the last is inevitable.*

Curses and Their Categories

We want to consider a more detailed account of some curses, the consequences of sin that would result in breaking the laws given by God through Moses as recorded in **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**. I would only quote some of the verses in this range of verses, just to give us an idea of what the curse is. Also, I will emphasise some words (that we are more familiar with in today's English) so we can categorise the manifestations of the curses in the life of an individual because I would refer to the categories in a later chapter. So, let us look at the verses.

Deuteronomy 28:15 says "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:" Verse 19 says "Cursed *shalt thou be* when thou **comest in**, and cursed *shalt thou be* when thou **goest out**." What does this mean? In verse 20-22 it is written, "The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou **settest thine hand unto for to do**, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The LORD shall make the **pestilence** cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a **fever**, and with an **inflammation**, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish." Verse 27-30 "The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the **itch**, whereof thou canst not be healed. The Lord shall smite thee with **madness**, and **blindness**, and **astonishment of heart**: And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt **not prosper in thy ways**: and thou shalt be only **oppressed and spoiled evermore**, and no man shall save thee. Thou shalt betroth a wife, and **another man shall lie with her**: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and **shalt not gather the grapes** thereof." Verse

35 “The Lord shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that **cannot be healed**, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.” Now, as we read these scriptures, they may bring disturbing thoughts to your mind, but I request that you endeavour to keep reading this book, because it gets better as we progress, as we would see how these curses may not apply to you depending on your response today. So please try to stay till the end. Verse 39 - 40 (Thou shalt plant **vineyards**, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit.) Verse 60 – 61 “Moreover he will bring upon thee all the **diseases** of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every **sickness**, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.” Finally, verses 65-67 “And among these nations shalt thou **find no ease**, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a **trembling heart**, and **failing of eyes**, and **sorrow of mind**: And thy **life shall hang in doubt** before thee; and thou shalt **fear** day and night, and shalt have **none assurance of thy life**: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the **fear of thine heart** wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see”.

Now, by paying attention to the words emphasised in the verses above, we would notice that the curses affect the following areas;

1.) **Health and Safety**: This entails physical and emotional health, and then matters of safety of the individual’s life. This is where we see curses that contain words like, “comest in”, “goest out”, “pestilence”, “fever”, “inflammation”, “itch”, “madness”, “blindness”, “astonishment of heart”, “another man shall lie with her”, “cannot be healed”, “disease”, “sickness”, “find no ease”, “trembling heart”, “failing of eyes”, “sorrow of mind”, “life shall hang in doubt”, “none assurance of thy life” and “fear of thine heart”.

2.) **Finances**: These curses have to do with a person’s earnings, business and means of livelihood. The curses in this area are those that contain the following words; “comest in”, “goest out”, “settest thine hand unto for to do”, “not prosper in thy ways”, “oppressed and spoiled evermore”, “shalt not gather the grapes” and “vineyards”.

Now let us consider death itself.

Death

As we mentioned earlier, the progression is law, sin and death, and considering the curses above, if there is enough pressure on a person’s health and finances, it

surely can culminate into the eventual death of the individual. But there is another kind of death that was not mentioned in Deuteronomy 28. I would like to make this category three, (that is in addition to Health and Safety, and finances which can lead to literal death), so we can refer to these three categories together as a group in a later chapter.

3.) **Eternity:** Another consequence of sin is eternal judgement. There is a place where people go when they die in sin, let us see this in scriptures. It is written in Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”. The Bible calls it “The Second Death”. We know of the record of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man died and went to hell where he was in torment. There are also people in our contemporary history that have gone to hell by revelation, but for the purpose of this study, I will not cite any such experiences, though I believe in visions and the testimonies of such revelations of Out-of-the-Body Experiences (OBE’s) and Near-Death Experiences (NDE’s) have impacted me tremendously, but I will not share them here so we can have a common ground of truth that is as objective as possible, which is the “more-sure word”, the Bible. Luke 16:23 says concerning the rich man that died and went to hell “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom”. So, there’s torment in hell, and we know that there are worms there as it is written in Mark 9:47-48 “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched”. Hell is a terrible place, and “terrible”, I think, is almost a careless understatement to describe hell. But personally, I believe that to anybody there, the worst thing about hell is not just the torment, but it is the hopelessness, the fact that it is eternal! If one is going through a torment no matter how excruciating, at least one knows he is going to die. I think this is the hope that keeps people that endure extreme torture. But in hell, one does not die, the torment just continues like that. Another scripture that confirm that hell is an eternal punishment, apart from Mark above, is Matthew 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment...”. Dear reader, these things are true and are real. So that is that about the consequences of sin.

SUMMARY

- Sin is a violation of your conscience, a violation of God’s laws.
- Death is a consequence of sin, and the progression is “Law, Sin, and Death” in that order.

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- The Curse is a manifestation of death. Death affects three areas in a person's life; Health & Safety (emotional and physical), Finances and Eternity.

CHAPTER 3

The Paradox *(Romans 3:23-24)*

AS I mentioned earlier in the preface, I saw the things I am sharing in this book in a personal bible study (mainly the book of Romans) and the next thing I am about to share was probably the most shocking to me. The first part of it is scary and the second part is surprising, and the two parts together is a paradox. Lexico dictionary (powered by Oxford) defines a paradox as “A seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true”¹, and in this case, the paradox is true!

All Have Sinned

The first part of the paradox is that “All have sinned”! I have sinned, you have sinned, Adam sinned, Abraham sinned, everybody has sinned. Considering the consequences of sin, we just discussed, the thought of this statement being true can be very disturbing. I found this in Romans 3:9-10 “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”. Roman 3:19-20 “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin”. Then, Romans 3:23 says “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...”. Now, if all have sinned, the implication is that all, everybody is worthy of the curse, everybody is worthy of death, everybody is worthy of hell! And at this point, I want to say Selah, a word we find often in the book of Psalms which means, pause and reflect on what has just been said. You might be reading this and you may be thinking “But I have not committed any sin, I don’t know about Adam, I’ve been a good person”. But the Bible says you have sinned and if you do not want to believe the Bible (which is actually true, truer than even your conscience), I will like you to think back, have you ever lied once? Have you ever thought on something you are not supposed to think

on once? Have you ever taken something that is not yours once? Have you ever called the name of God in vain once? Have you ever violated your conscience once? If you have done any of these once, then you have sinned and I like using the analogy of a chain, to break a chain you do not need to break every link, all you need do is break one. The same way, breaking one law is breaking all of the law and of course, breaking it once is enough, as it is written in James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”. When you break one law of God when you violate your conscience once you are already qualified for the curse and for death. So, all have sinned.

A paradox is a seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true.

All Have Been Justified

The second part of the paradox is that “All have been justified”! Every person has been justified and to establish this once again we would go to the Bible, to the verse of scripture that is just after Romans 3:23 (that we just read), that is verse 24, but it is good we read the two together so that we can get it together, Romans 3:23 – 24 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”. According to this scripture, who are those that are being justified? The answer is the subject of the sentence, which is “ALL”, all have sinned, all are being justified by the grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Now that brings a light of hope! Romans 4:5 “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”. We see in this verse again that God justifies the ungodly; we begin to wonder how does this match, how does this make sense? It says we have sinned and now justified, what happened between the two? Romans 4:6 says “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works”, Talking about God imputing righteousness without works. Verse 7 “Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered”. Covered under what? Why? How is that possible? Verse 8 “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin”. Meaning there are conditions under which God will not impute sin to a person. Wow! Let us go again to 2 Corinthians 5. We are going to bring everything from scripture, so we are going to stay in scriptures as much as possible. 2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;

and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”. He didn’t impute the trespasses of the world to them?! Let us pause here and consider an analogy, though often, analogies do not completely describe a situation, but they give a picture of it and help to understand it better.

God justifies the ungodly, imputes righteousness without works and will not impute sin and trespasses.

Imagine a man caught in the act of murder and is brought to a court of law and the king or judge, after listening to all that the suspect has done, which are backed up with pieces of evidence, he decrees his judgement in favour of the man, that he is discharged and acquitted! You would probably wonder, “What kind of judge is this? What kind of court of law is this? This man committed murder, he is worthy of death and they just let him go like that?! Why?” But hang on and find out more. Let’s go to Galatians 3:8, “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed”. Now, we know that “the heathen”, “all nations” have sinned. Yet it says God would justify them and that in Abraham all nations shall be blessed! Once again, I say Selah, pause and think about this. Applying this to our analogy, it means that the murder suspect was not only discharged but he was also given incentives! It is like after discharging him, the Judge gives a decree that he should be given the deed to some government property to move in there as his new apartment and so on! So, all have sinned, the judgement for sin is the curse and death, and now all, which have sinned, are being justified and blessed. What kind of king or judge would have a murder case and would judge that the person who has been accused of the murder with evidence should be let go free like that? What kind of town or kingdom would it be that cases are judged that way? How will a just God cover sin? And Why?” Let us consider the thoughts in the next chapter if they would be sufficient to answer these questions and justify the judge’s actions in the court that day.

- 1.) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/paradox>

SUMMARY

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- We see that all have sinned against God, so we all are worthy of the curse and death.
- Yet, all are being justified freely; God imputes righteousness without works, covers sin, and will not impute sin.
- These two facts seem contradictory and needs to be explained and justified.

CHAPTER 4

Grace (The Substitution)

THE answers to the last questions in the previous chapter are right there in the scriptures, verse 24 of Romans 3, tells us that the justification by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus! And how is this? Verse 25 says "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God". That is to say that, God set forth Jesus to be a propitiation, to declare His own righteousness for sins that He is covering and not imputing. Verse 26 continues to say "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus". So, by Jesus, God justifies us and at the same time, shows that He is just, despite the fact that He forgave and covered sins (as recorded in Romans 4:7). And what God did was to set forth Jesus as a propitiation according to Romans 3:24. Now, we do not come across the word "Propitiation" very often in our everyday vocabulary, at least this was the case for me, so I looked up the meaning of the word. The root word, propitiate is defined as "Win or regain the favour of (a god, spirit, or person) by doing something that pleases them"¹. And synonyms are; pacify, make calm, make peace with and so on. So, God set forth Jesus to please Himself, so man can regain His favour. God is not answerable to any one of us, but because He is a just Judge, He took it upon himself to show himself just.

We're still considering how and why a just God would decide to cover sins and not impute trespasses. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God". Why? Verse 21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him". Wow, now this is making things clearer. So, this is the propitiation, God made Jesus "become sin" who knew no sin and that is how He's able to acquit the other person who

committed the sin! So now, let us study this exchange, what was going on behind the scenes? What is the role or concern of this person that was given as the substitute? All had sinned and worthy of the curse and death and now somebody is put forth, made to be sin, he was put forth to pacify God's anger since God is the One we all sinned against.

Let us read what happened in the opening verses of **Isaiah 53**. Verse 1-2 "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him". Now, this talking about Jesus Christ who was set forth as a propitiation, and we know that by a lot of scriptures but I am going to point to just one in the book of Acts chapter 8 when the Eunuch was reading this portion of the book of Isaiah and he did not understand. Acts 8:30 "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?" Verse 34-35 "And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus". So, let us continue, Isaiah 53 Verse 3-4 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted". Contrary to what some have said that God was appeasing the devil by the sacrificing Jesus, No! God is not answerable to the devil nor does He owe him anything. The scripture we just read is making it clear that it was God that afflicted Jesus, He let the law take its full course on Jesus! See the substitution play out in these next verses, how Jesus took our place, notice my emphases as you read. Verse 5-6 "But **he** was wounded for **our** transgressions, **he** was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon **him**; and with **his** stripes **we** are healed. All **we** like sheep have gone astray; **we** have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on **him** the iniquity of **us all**.) Now we see the exchange clearly. Finally, verse 7 says "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth".

God afflicted Jesus, He let the law take its full course on him!

SIMPLE TRUTHS ABOUT SIN, GRACE & FAITH

So, we could say there was an execution scene that we did not see before the acquittance of the murderer in our analogy in the previous chapter; another person had been executed before this murderer can be let go free in that court of law, and that is why it was also necessary that the person executed must be without any offence. And this is confirmed 2 Corinthians 5:21 that Jesus knew no sin. Isaiah 53:10a goes on to say "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin". So, Jesus Christ was made sin who knew no sin, he was made a curse. It was not just that God placed sins of the world upon him, but rather, God made him sin, he virtually became the definition of sin. Then, Galatians 3:13 says, he was made a curse, not that he was cursed, but he so to speak, became the definition of curse, that was what happened to Jesus Christ. So let us consider this if the consequence of sin is death and the curse, and Jesus has been made sin, then it has to be that Jesus is made a curse, since the only cause of the curse is sin and he had become sin. You might be thinking, how is the execution of one man, Jesus, sufficient to cover the sins of billions of people? Well, that is how also, the sin of one man, Adam, is sufficient to bring all born by him under the curse and death, as it is written in Romans 5:14-15 "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many". It has to be true then, that the affliction and judgement on Jesus could not only have been physical, for it to be commensurate to all sin of all generations. So, the curse and death that is due to the human race have been placed on Jesus. Curses that have to do with safety and health, Finances and Eternity (as categorised previously in the second chapter of this book) have been placed on Jesus. Galatians 3:13-14 says "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith". The curses in Deuteronomy 28:15-68 are curses of the law. It is recorded that Jesus went to hell, the destination of those that die in sin. This is recorded in some places in scripture like in Ephesians 4:9 "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" Also, in Matthew 12:40 "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth". Then 1 Peter 3:18-19 says "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;". That must be why he has the keys as it is written in Revelation 1:18 "*I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have

the keys of hell and of death.” The implication of this substitution of Jesus is that no human is supposed to experience the curse, death or hell! Let us look again at the consequences of sin we were able to gather in Chapter 2 of this book in their categories.

1.) **Health and Safety:** This entails physical and emotional health, and then matters of safety of the individual’s life. This is where we see curses that contain words like, “comest in”, “goest out”, “pestilence”, “fever”, “inflammation”, “itch”, “madness”, “blindness”, “astonishment of heart”, “another man shall lie with her”, “cannot be healed”, “disease”, “sickness”, “find no ease”, “trembling heart”, “failing of eyes”, “sorrow of mind”, “life shall hang in doubt”, “none assurance of thy life” and “fear of thine heart”.

2.) **Finances:** These curses have to do with a person’s earnings, business and means of livelihood. The curses in this area are those that contain the following words; “comest in”, “goest out”, “settest thine hand unto for to do”, “not prosper in thy ways”, “oppressed and spoiled evermore”, “shalt not gather the grapes” and “vineyards”.

3.) **Eternity:** Another consequence of sin is eternal judgement. There is a place where people go when they die in sin, let us see this in scriptures. It is written in Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”. The Bible calls it “The Second Death”.

By Jesus being made sin, you and I are not supposed to experience any of the things above, ever! But we know there is sickness and lack in the world today, and you have probably experienced these things before as I myself have. So, now the question is; if all curse has been placed on Jesus, why does anyone still experience it? Why do people still go to hell? Let us go into the next chapter to discover the reasons.

- 1.) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/propitiate>

SUMMARY

- God afflicted Jesus Christ instead of us, God made him a propitiation so that He can justify us, the ungodly, cover and forgive our sins and impute righteousness to us and yet be just doing so.
- God made Jesus Christ to be sin, and then let the law take its full course on him, therefore making Jesus Christ a curse, to die and go to hell.

SIMPLE TRUTHS ABOUT SIN, GRACE & FAITH

- This means as all have sinned, all are justified, substituted by Jesus, but why are some still going through the curse and going to hell?

CHAPTER 5

Being Justified (Choose life Today)

WE have seen so far that all have sinned and worthy of the curse and death, but all are justified and the justification is by God's grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ. So, if I am justified, if Jesus has really been punished for the sins of everybody, why do I still experience the curse? Why are people still experiencing death in their lives? We would look at two reasons, which would be discussed in the form of steps towards going from under the curse and death into the blessing and life.

Man's Will

In Chapter 1 of this book, in the section subtitled "God is and is a Rewarder", where we talked about evils going on in the world on God's watch, we mentioned the place of man's responsibility. Most of the evil we see around and in our lives are self-inflicted, some intentional and others unintentional. For the **intentional**, we know that man is an entity with free will, and a man's decisions over his own life are stronger than those of anyone, stronger than even God's will for the man. God said through Moses in Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live". So, the solution here is, Repent! Desire life, choose life!

Now, there are those who choose death **unintentionally**, they have tried and they seem to not be able to choose life, for example, say you have tried to stop a habit and it's killing you but you just do not seem to be able to stop, you seem to have lost your will, this means the situation has gone beyond your will, just like the man described in Romans 7:20 "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me". There are also those who are in the curse unintentionally like being born say, into a family that lives on the street, or having an inherited or contracted disease or a terrible financial situation that would not get better despite following simple financial laws and so on. If you are found in this category (or as is more likely

is the case, there are parts of your life that fall in this category) it's okay, you can move on to the next step which is faith. But If you do not desire to choose life, we cannot go beyond this step, if you try to practice the next step (which is faith) without sincerely desiring life, you would not have positive results and also, you would actually find enough space to "hide in" to inflict yourself, because this step of faith, is for the sincere; there is a lot of grace to tolerate everyone who is in this zone, and this is so that no one truly in faith, is left without a way out. It is written in 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it". This would not work for someone, who is looking for temptation, or in it and would not take the way to escape provided by the faithful God. It is also written in Hebrews 10:26-27 "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries". We also see in 1 Timothy 1:19 where God's spirit through Paul was admonishing Timothy and us also, saying, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck". So, sincerity is required for faith, but if you feel you have also lost your ability to be sincere, well, still move on to faith, there is room for you there.

*A man's decisions over his own life are stronger than those of anyone,
stronger than even God's will for the man.*

Faith

Our main scripture for Chapter 3 was Romans 3:23-24, that talked about the justification of all, which is through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, but verse 25 tells us how this justification is obtained, it says "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood ..." It is obtained by faith in his blood! Galatians 3:13-14 that talks about Christ being made a curse for us, it says in verse 14 "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith". We receive the blessing and promise through faith. Let us establish this further, John 3:16 says "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". It requires you to believe. And a quick note here, this verse of the scripture we just read tells us the intentions of God

for this Substitution; which is **love**. That is, the judge in our analogy so loved that guilty man, that he gave his own only son in the place of that man. I often use this analogy when I speak about the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, that if you give away your pair shoes in exchange for a wristwatch, which of the two items is more important to you at that time? It is the item you got in exchange; the wristwatch! If God gave His Son for the world it suggests that the world is more important to Him than His son at the moment, or at the least, the world is of equal value to Him as His son. Even though God did not give His son as a buy and sell trade as portrayed in this analogy, the analogy is just to emphasise the value God truly places on those who receive this Justification. This kind of love is too deep for the natural mind to grasp. John 3:17-18 goes on to say "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God".

Another thing we need to note about this redemption is that, because you cannot pay for it, it is **completely free**! This is beginning to sound too good to be true, but it is written in Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace..." Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". So, this justification is a free gift, all you need to do is just receive it and people often have issues with this. As someone rightly puts it that when selling an item, what you struggle with is convincing the buyer to pay a certain price, but when you talk about God's grace, what you struggle with is how to get the receiver to take it for free.

Still talking about receiving justification by faith, note the emphases in the following scriptures. Romans 3:26b talking about God, says "...and the justifier of him which **believeth** in Jesus". Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast". Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" That is, you cannot be righteous or escape God's judgement by doing good, in an attempt to undo or outdo the bad you have done. Verse 21 says, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets" How do you obtain the righteousness? Verse 22 "Even the righteousness of God *which is by faith* of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that **believe**: for there is no difference". Romans 4:3 says "For what saith the scripture? Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness..." Verse 23-25 says, "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we **believe** on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification". So, you obtain this by faith!

Do you Believe?

Now, here is the turning point, if you believe these things written about the redemption, that you have sinned, and you are justified through the redemption in Jesus the Son of God, all you need do now is say it with your mouth and you would instantly appropriate the acquittance, your sins would be forgiven, and righteousness would be imputed to you, it is just like that! Romans 10:8-10 “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”. So, if you have never done this before, and you now believe in Jesus, just declare it with your mouth wherever you are right now, you can simply read the quote below out loud at least for you to hear yourself, because God can hear you and the Jesus you are about to confess can hear you. If you are not willing to be saved, please do not read out the quote as you may not be prepared for the outcome of the confession. And if you are reading this and you are mute, that is, unable to speak, or unable to hear, you can read the quote below the same way you have been reading up till this point, and follow unto the next chapter to see how to receive your healing by yourself, but I tell you, the word is near you, even in your mouth now. Say this:

I believe in you Jesus Christ, that you died for my sins and you were raised from the dead by God for my justification. I am Justified!

If you read that and you believed it, then you are saved according to Romans 10:8-10. It is that simple. It is not possible for you to mean and say those words and remain the same, even if you have said them before. And this is because you literally invoke and stir the Spirit that inspired those words of the scripture when you speak it out in faith.

SUMMARY

Kunle Ministers

- We looked at two reasons why (and ways out for) people are still experiencing the curse and death in their lives despite the fact that Jesus has been made a curse on behalf of all men.
- We also saw by the way that God put this justification in place because of His love, then we established that the justification is free.
- One of the two reasons people still experience death today is that man is an entity with a free will, and some people intentionally choose death over life.
- There are others however that chose death against their own will and they cannot stop, these ones would have to take the second way out.
- The second reason is that this free justification in Jesus has obtained by believing in faith in the heart and confessing with the mouth.
- When we believe and confess Jesus in faith, we are Justified.

CHAPTER 6

Continuing in the Faith (Welcome to the Supernatural)

FROM this point on, we have left the realm of reason and logic, beyond what we can see, hear, taste, smell or feel (with our skin), but we have not left reality, we have only moved from one dimension to another, which is the dimension of the supernatural or the spiritual, and the spiritual is a real dimension. The word real is defined as “actually existing as a thing or occurring in fact; not imagined or supposed”¹ and a dimension is “a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as length, breadth, depth, or height”² So to say that the spiritual realm is a real dimension is to say that the spiritual realm is an actually existing measurable extent of a particular kind, that is not imagined or supposed. And I put it to you that we do not live in a physical world with some spiritual realities, but rather in an essentially spiritual world with natural realities, as it is written in Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” and also 2 Corinthians 4:18 “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”. Again, the natural is the shadow cast by the spiritual, just as a circle is the shadow cast by a sphere; the spiritual is the life behind the natural, just as a hand is the life inside a glove. So, the two realms map unto each other in certain ways, but one is the source and the force behind the other. It is also important to note that in the supernatural realm, there are other spiritual forces that are not of God (that you may have been exposed to in the past), but a person that accesses the supernatural by the name of Jesus (as we just did in the previous chapter) has authority over all such other forces as written in Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”.

The spiritual realm is an actually existing measurable extent of a particular kind, that is not imagined or supposed.

Like I said in the closing of the previous chapter, believing and speaking those words of scripture out loud releases the power that inspired the writing in the first place. You are justified by the power of God that is in Jesus Christ His Son, now this qualifies you for a very wide range of privileges and possibilities that I am aware of, asides those that I do not know yet. One other thing that happened to you is that you became a son of God, a son just like Jesus who gave his life for you! As it is written in John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name”.

Hear, Believe, Speak, Redo

God’s Spirit speaking through Paul says in Colossians 2:6-7 “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving”. How did you receive Christ Jesus in the previous chapter? Believing what is written and confessing it in faith. This is exactly the same way you appropriate other privileges and rights in this kingdom, that we have been translated into, as it is written in Colossians 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins”. So, this is the way we operate in this kingdom, but many professing believers I have met do not realise this and do not operate this way. Even when you work miracles, it is done by faith as it is written in the rhetorical question in Galatians 3:5 “He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”. Romans 1:16b-17 says “For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. So, you heard God’s word by the report of Esaias (that is Isaiah), in Isaiah 53:1-5, faith came to you and you believed that Jesus is your substitute, you spoke and then you were saved. It is in this same report of Isaiah we have the words “and the chastisement of our peace was upon him” All you need do to receive this peace is to confess it. Still, the same report by Isaiah in the same place says “by his stripes, we are healed”, confess the healing with your mouth and it is done! All these things are already true about you in the spirit, all you are doing is bringing them into this physical realm. A major way to manifest what is in the spirit into this physical realm is to speak it (or by writing), and many times you have to be forceful about it, and

force would not have been necessary if not because of the presence of an enemy, the devil and in some cases, because of the momentum that has already been built over time in the negative direction in that physical situation you are trying to correct.

Authority over the Accuser and the Thief

Remember the analogy of the judge and the guilty man acquitted? Not everyone is happy with the verdict of the judge, man has an accuser, which is the devil, who brings people under condemnation again under the same judgement they have been acquitted from! There is a legal term called Double Jeopardy, and it is defined as "...a procedural defence that prevents an accused person from being tried again on the same (or similar) charges following a valid acquittal or conviction"³. You were accused, you were tried and convicted, but Jesus was executed in your place and you were acquitted, that case is closed, do not appear in court again if invited by the enemy, he's liar. Hear what God's Spirit continues to say through Paul in Colossians 2:16 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days".

Double jeopardy is a procedural defence that prevents an accused person from being tried again on the same (or similar) charges following a valid acquittal or conviction.

So, defend your stand of justification, because the enemy would constantly try to attack your justification, so that you would be weak to defend your ground concerning your health and safety, finances and Eternity (those three categories mentioned in the previous chapters of this book). He would try to accuse you, and if that does not work, he would tempt you so you could do things against your conscience, so that he can say, "See now? I made you sin! Haa ha ha"? No! He tempts you in order to attack your faith, your shield, so that you are not bold to resist him, so that you are not bold to declare God's word, to ask anything from God or to even receive what He has provided. Now, no matter the country of the world you are reading this from, I am sure stealing is illegal where you are, but do people still steal and go free? Probably yes. So, why is that? It is simply because they are not caught or/and prosecuted by law enforcement agents within that territory. The same way stealing can still take place in a territory where it has been declared illegal, is the same way the curse can still take place in your body and life after you have confessed Jesus! Jesus said in John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and

to kill, and to destroy...” even though this is illegal. But then, he also said in Luke 10:18-19 “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”. When the devil is trying to steal from you, he is only trying to do his job, and you are the law enforcement agent of your territory, so rise up and do yours!

Be free in every way, both now and forever

So, if you feel a fever in your body, for example, knowing that this is something that has been put on Jesus, you set your heart and confess this. “By the stripes of Jesus, I am healed”. Once again, believing these inspired words extracted from Isaiah 53:5, and confessing it out releases supernatural power. There was a certain week I had spent and given more than planned, and the money I had left with me was not enough to sustain my family for that period, and I actually had a trip planned for that weekend. So, I asked God for a supply in the name of Jesus, and within a few days a person who owed me paid, this was a debt I had already let go because of the contentions on it. When you really believe something, it exudes from your dispositions and even conversations, then you would be more thankful to God, (as we see in Colossians 2:7) why? Because if things were not going on fine, you would have turned to God in faith, so if they are fine, you would naturally give thanks to Him. Another characteristic is that you would not pressurise people for your needs, because you know your Source, and this would in turn, also, make you not get offended with people easily. Another example, if there is a habit you cannot seem to stop, like we said, this has gone beyond the will, you declare the word of God, like in Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”. You declare it, “Lying, you have no dominion over me in the name of Jesus, for I am not under law but under grace”, the situation will change, supernaturally because you believed and spoke the word of God. If were born mute as we mentioned earlier, fill your mind with the truth of the inspired word of God, think it, write it, mumble it however you can, and the situation will change, supernaturally. Just as you read that you were justified, also read it, as it is written, every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, meditate on that, that your tongue also must confess and it will, in the name of Jesus! If you are currently between jobs, or you keep losing money in your trade or business and putting food on the table is difficult, or maybe you live on the street and do not even have a table to put food on, turn to your Creator, on the same grounds on which he provided your justification through Jesus Christ, and decree, it is written in Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”. And say “Father, I have sought your kingdom, I now have your

righteousness, I receive my feeding and clothing, now in the name of Jesus”, decree this and retry what you have been failing at before (like Peter tried again at the word of Jesus in Luke 5:5) and the situation will change, supernaturally. Or does it make sense to you that God would set up your redemption, prepare your eternity and forget your breakfast!? Romans 8:32 says “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” If after such confessions or requests from God, the situations seem to persist, then use your authority as a law enforcement agent of your life, it means it is time to stop talking *to God* about the situation but rather start talking *to the situation* by the authority of God. Face the situation and address it in the name of Jesus.

Addressing Situations and Devils

God asking us to walk by faith is as if God is saying, “I know you cannot do anything about this situation, but move that small member of your body, your tongue, in order to express your heart and I will take it from there”. If you are diagnosed with a disease, call the name of the disease and cast it out of your body with your voice, as you would a snake trying to curl around you. Most people do not get this violent in faith until their life depends on it, or maybe they are diagnosed with a terminal disease or they do not have any options in their situation, but you do not need to wait till this time. When you constantly walk by faith, you would probably have begun to talk back at the symptoms even before you are able to make an appointment with the doctor that wants to run a diagnosis, or even started resisting the thoughts of being sick by your words, because that is where it often starts. And speaking to situations is not absurd, Jesus *rebuked* a fever (as it is written in Luke 4:39) and the fever left immediately, there was no fruit on a fig tree and Jesus *answered* the fig tree (in Mark 11:14&20) and *it dried up* from the roots. Jesus *rebuked* a storm (Mark 4:39) and *there was a great calm*, after which (in verse 40) he asked those with him “Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” and I think he said this because he expected them to have rebuked the storm themselves instead of waking him up from his sleep. To rebuke means to “express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions”⁴ but the word *rebuke* in the scriptures above is translated from the Greek word “*epitimaó*” (pronounced “ep-ee-tee-mah’-o” with emphasis on the fourth syllable) which can be defined as “to warn by instructing”, that is, the way you express your disapproval is by *instructing*. So, situations speak to you and you are to respond and they hear! Though you do not need to wait till then, but especially when situations seem to become recurrent and mysterious sort of, like you keep having quarrels with your spouse, or you have done all you know, but seem to keep having bad luck, or you have actual negative supernatural encounters then exercise your authority and

declare as it is written in Mark 16:15 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues” and say “Satan, I cast you out of my finances in the name of Jesus”. And you would experience peace in your finances or whatever the situation might be. And this principle applies not just in matters of surviving as it were, but also in matters of thriving. Jesus said in Mark 11:24 “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*”. And in the next verse, he instructs us to forgive; it is impossible to receive forgiveness from God if we do not forgive those that offend us, because in not forgiving others, we condemn ourselves unworthy of forgiveness, as all sin (including sin against us) is ultimately sin against God. Note also that, as you cannot cast out your flesh, which actually has to be crucified (Galatians 5:24) that is the same way you cannot crucify or counsel devils, they have to be cast out! The Holy Spirit in you would help you in distinguishing between such situations.

Faith for Others

When you live by faith to a point, you would begin to apply faith on other people’s territory also, when they give you permission to do so, just like Jesus who went about doing good, healing all that are oppressed of the devil for God was with him. When I was an undergraduate, my department in the university was close to the school health centre, so I sometimes stop by to express my faith to pray for patients there, and people were healed. There were times I did this and it seemed as though there were no positive results, but, the most verifiable or fastest that I can remember was a young lady who was writhing in pain on the bed and hardly able to speak when I came, this was around 10am. I asked to pray for her as I would when I want to engage a sick person for prayer she nodded in agreement, so I held her hand and spoke to the pain to leave and for her health to be restored in the name of Jesus and then I left and went to class (I think she was the only one I prayed for that day, because the other patients were looking fine to me, as they were probably on their phone, laptop or something). Lectures did not hold on that day I suppose, but it was about 11am and for some reason I was on my way back from the department to my home with a friend and a young lady greeted me smiling so brightly as if she had known me before, as I was responding, I recognised her face as the person I had prayed for some moments ago. My response was like, “Yeah, good morniiiiiiiiing! Oh! You were the one I... Wow, thank God”. She was excited and grateful.

You cannot cast out your flesh, it has to be crucified; you cannot crucify devils, they have to be cast out

There was another certain day, I was to go for a choir rehearsal in our campus fellowship, which was for 4pm, I ideally would leave my house by around 3:30pm, but I felt like leaving earlier, so I did. When I got close to the fellowship, I noticed a lady who was in a black dress, she would walk a few steps and kneel as one praying and then rise again, and repeat that. At this time people were already gathering to watch. I felt lead to attend to her since nobody was. I spoke to her she asked me to leave her alone, but I knew this was not normal, so I went into the fellowship to get some brothers to help bring her in, but they were not willing to do so, I called an instructor in the faith we had off campus then, on the phone, but he suggested that there should be a person who is bringing her and giving us permission to pray for her and I agreed, but I knew I could not leave her that way. So, I went back to her and by my word, bound spirits that were keeping her from responding to me, in the name of Jesus. And then her resistance reduced and I managed to bring her closer to the fellowship and then others joined me. When she was seated on one of the white chairs under the fellowship tent, I began to pray and then others joined me, particularly two Christian brothers from a neighbouring fellowship and also our fellowship sisters' coordinator and our fellowship president. Most of my prayer was in other tongues and then intermittent rebuking of evil spirits with my word in the name of Jesus according to Mark 16:15 where Jesus said, "In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues". And each time I would try to strike a conversation with her and see if I get a reasonable response, if I am not satisfied, I pray again. Then at a point, I felt a kind of release in my heart and that we should give her something to eat. I asked our sisters' coordinator to get something for her, she gave her a drink, she refused the drink initially and then later received it in the name of Jesus. At about then we began to give thanks to God, and then the lady's aunt who had been looking for her came into the fellowship and recognised her and they were united again, at this time her eye contact was more stable and she was nodding in response to questions. And when she was finally in the car to be taken home by her aunt, she said, "thank you brother Kunle". By means of follow up, I visited their home the next day and everything was fine, in fact, she made us some cold tea, as it was a hot Sunday afternoon! Her health had been restored completely! Currently, I have lost contact with the persons in the last two testimonies we just read, otherwise, I would have made attempts for them to render the testimonies

themselves, but the next testimony you are about to read is of my own cousin who I prayed for a few years ago.

“I grew up with a sight disorder, I could not really see from far distances, so I used glasses since I was young and I didn't like it. I grew up with that hatred for glasses but I couldn't do without it, because if I didn't wear it, I would not see properly. There were even times that I could not see someone even if they were standing in front of me. When I lost my mom, I went to grandma's house (that's what they call my family house), I was there for some weeks, so during that time, I told uncle Joshua (that's what she calls me) about my eye issues and he asked me "Do you believe" and I said "yes". He prayed for me and in the next few minutes, I could see clearly.”

Now, I remember this was the second time I prayed for her within the same week, placing my fingers on her closed eyelids and speaking to the eyes to see in the name of Jesus. That particular evening, we were watching the TV together, and I think it was on Faith Channel or so and she suddenly called me and said, “I can see clearly now, I can see clearly!” So, we did a few tests, for her to do things she could not do before, like I asked her to dictate the numbers on the screen while sitting on the sofa and so on and she did, her eye sight was as good as mine!

These are first-hand testimonies of things changing in the physical by speaking and acting God's word in faith in the name of Jesus.

Conclusion

You have sinned, you are worthy of curse and death, but you are justified because Jesus was executed as a substitute for you and you were acquitted, so turn from evil, receive your justification and blessing by faith, and you do this by hearing God's word, believing it and speaking it in faith, repeat the same process to all curse-like situations in your life and around you, and be free in every way, both now and forever, in the name of Jesus!

- 1.) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/real>
- 2.) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/dimension>
- 3.) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_jeopardy
- 4.) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/rebuke>

SUMMARY

- The spiritual dimension is real, and we access it by faith in God, that is by hearing God's word, believing it and speaking it in the name of Jesus.

SIMPLE TRUTHS ABOUT SIN, GRACE & FAITH

- This is the same way we access other privileges in the kingdom of God.
- You would need to resist the devil from accusing you, weakening your faith and robbing you of your justification and attacking you.
- Ask God for your needs, if things seem to remain the same, then rebuke the situation or devils at work as the case may be.
- As you walk by faith, you would begin to apply faith on other people's territory too.