

DEEP FROM INSIDE THE FISH:

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL



BY MENTUS UDOKA OKOLIE

MARSWELL PUBLISHING

RIVERS NIGERIA

DEEP FROM INSIDE THE FISH:

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

BY MENTUS UDOKA OKOLIE

Copyright © 2016

2

MARSWELL PUBLISHING

RIVERS NIGERIA

DEEP FROM INSIDE THE FISH: ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Copyright © 2016 by Mentus Udoka Okolie

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any means including any electronic or mechanical means including photocopy, recording, or information storage and retrieval systems without the written permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review. Published by Marswell Publishing, Rivers, Nigeria

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture reference quoted: are from the Good News Bible (with Deuterocanonical Books / Apocrypha) Today's English Version (Catholic Edition). Copyright © 1966, 1971, 1976, 1979, 1992 by American Bible Society Used by permission of HarperCollins, Publisher

Scripture quotations marked ASV are from the American Standard Version, 1929

3

Scripture quotations marked AMP are from the Amplified Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987, Zondervan and The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House, Publisher

Printed and published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

DEDICATION

It was he {Jesus Christ} who “gave gifts to people”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers.

Ephesians 4:11

This Book is expressly dedicated to the child, woman and man who hunger and thirst after Righteousness.

Fret not! It was made so by your Maker.

Embrace it! Run with it!

4



INTRODUCTION

Few years ago, while studying the Book of Jonah, I tried to figure out the spiritual benefits to that story, but was only able to sieve these few facts:

- i. Even prophets are scared of certain assignments from God. I mean, who would not be! The Assyrians were ruthless and a vicious people. They would kill a man for the fun of it, if they felt bored.
- ii. When God tells us to do something, we should learn from Jonah's experience and obey His instructions.
- iii. Jonah's stubbornness "landed" him in the belly of a whale; and how he survived in there? Well, that is a miracle only God could have pulled off!

5

I summed up the morale lessons to be "Obedience to God". Years after, I had the "Inward Witness" – The Holy Spirit nudged me to revisit the Book of Jonah, again.

At the time, I was struggling just as Jonah in accepting my assignment from God, and come into Office to the position He had created for me, even before I was born. I did not listen because; I knew the work load that was involved, and the huge sacrifice I was to pay for such an Office.

My stubbornness cost me greatly! It cost me irreplaceable years; it cost me the demise of a dear one {you will come to understand much later in this Book how you can lose people, if you do not act now}; my businesses and

relationships. When I finally acknowledged and accepted God's Call; my "eyes of understanding" were opened to understand Scriptures like never before!

I began to see images, and hear sounds from Scriptures. I began to "boil" from within each time I mediated on the many Truths that the Inward Witness showed me; and I became a "mad man" to friends in my immediate sphere.

I would sit behind a laptop for hours, typing away, scribbling down information on notebooks, consulting the various Bible translations spread across my desk; and would at countless times used the internet.

6

I was never tired; neither did I complain of the streams of topics that the Holy Spirit would tell me to add to my ever growing list of Book titles. The Baptism of Power {Empowerment for extraordinary abilities} was behind it all. I would never have thought that I would be able to write an entire Book from start to finish in less than a day! Sometimes, I would write two!

I used to struggle for weeks or months just to get one completed. This taught me something worth to share: when you finally do come to Office, the portion of the words of the Master in John 3:3-5, specifically, verse 5; "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and **THE SPIRIT**," will begin to make clearer sense!

The SPIRIT baptizes you in three phases:

- ✚ **The Baptism of Word.** {The “washing” by Blood is the cleansing of sins and sanctification for forgiveness of sins with the Blood of Jesus as though it were water. Here, you are born again but, you still need to grow}
- ✚ **The Wait Period.** {Unto fast, prayers and endless study and meditation, and application of the Word by the Helper}
- ✚ **The Baptism of Power.** {Unto Empowerment for specific tasks, or call into the Five Fold Ministry Gifts}

See Publication; “**You Must Be Born Again!**” for great insights of what God has for you if you would seek Him with all of your being.

7

Dear brethren, I tell you there is nothing far more fulfilling than functioning in the Office you are called into.

That is where the Joy of the Lord becomes your strength.

That is where you become like Paul rightly put it, “contempt in all things!”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: 5

CHAPTER ONE

THE CALL: 9

CHAPTER TWO

JESUS OUR CALL: 14

CHAPTER THREE

8 UNDERSTAND AND MAKE IT PLAIN: 21

HOW TO KNOW IT IS FROM GOD: 22

CHAPTER FOUR

RUN WITH IT FLY WITH IT: 27

HOW TO RUN WITH IT: 33

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER: 39

PRAYER OF SALVATION

CHAPTER ONE

THE CALL

One day, the LORD spoke to Jonah son of Amittai, He said, “Go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it; I am aware how wicked its people are.”(Jonah 1:1) Prior to that special assignment, Jonah was a prophet of the Lord God of the Hebrews. Someone might ask, “Does it mean that God only calls and uses prophets to actualize His Divine agendas? Who is a prophet?”

9

Now when the Lord God called out Moses from the land of Egypt, Moses was not a prophet of God at the time. He was a Crowned Prince in the House of Pharaoh; though, he was of Hebrew lineage. God single handedly handpicked Moses for the job. He had His personal reasons why He chose Moses. It was not Moses who chose the Lord; it was the other way round. Moses did not do anything so special as to warrant God's attention to make him His prophet. One might be tempted to argue that there is the issue of influence as Prince of Egypt; and that God probably chose him so as to have easy access to Pharaoh in time to come. Well, this line of thought is wrong! God is no respecter of men! Though, He loves us, He fears NO ONE. God chose Moses because He wanted it so!

Therefore, a prophet or prophetess is a man or a woman, handpicked by God Himself. The individual is given a particular life designed by God, and that life is so because;

it is put in place for the emergence of that prophet at the time God “programmed” into that life. Consider the Life of the Master Jesus as an example. He was revealed to us just as the writings of all the Old Testament prophets indicated. He died, resurrected and ascended just as the New Testament Apostle wrote to us. His Life was orchestrated and executed by God for His Glory.

A prophet does is not one when birthed immediately per se though, in the Eyes of God, he is one even before his parents ever existed. Consider these words of God through the lips of the prophet Jeremiah;

The LORD said to me, “I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.”
Jeremiah 1:4-5; GNT

10

God handpicks His prophets Himself; and the same can be said about Moses, and all others. Now, after handpicking, He calls and commissions the person with an assigned task. The “commissioning” is the specific area of concentration, and the task is limited to that area.

Let us see a few illustrations.

1. God Calls Moses.

In Exodus 3:1-10, the Scripture gave a narrative of how God called Moses, and commissioned him with the task of leading His people out of Egypt. He called Moses to be His anointed prophet. “[Now, I am sending you] to the king of Egypt [so that you can lead my people out of his country.]” Moses’ area of concentration was the

congregation of the Israelites; his task was getting them out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

2. God calls Jesus Christ.

The Lord was called and commissioned after His Baptism at the River Jordan. The Scripture has this to say:

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. [Then heaven was opened to him], and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a [voice] said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased." (Matthew 1:16-17; GNT)

11

The Book of Acts 10:38 then lets us know His commission and task: "You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went [everywhere], [doing good] and [healing] all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him."

Now, someone might be tempted to say, "Well, they were both of earthly Hebrew lineages!" As tempting as this assumption might sound; it is an erroneous one. From the account on the "Story of Creation" told in Genesis 1 and 2; Mankind began to spread through one man and one woman. Hebrew or not, is ABSOLUTELY irrelevant! Why do I say this? Consider the very words of the Master Creator in John 3:16 (AMP);

"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son,

so that **whoever believes** in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.”

When the Apostle John spoke those words, he was not speaking only to his listeners at the time who predominantly were Jews; no he was speaking to the Gentiles – you and me! The restriction to God's Call {be the “General Call” or a “Gift Call} ended with Jesus Christ. God now calls ANYONE He desires to use. He knows all those He would use, even before they are born.

He has chosen particular lives for them to live by, and have ‘a set time’ in their lives, when they would be called to be used by Him. The Holy Spirit is the “Notifier” of this Divine Call when the “set time is right”.

12

When God calls an individual, He hands down to them a specific task to accomplish. Let us see what Jonah's task was again.

He said, “Go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it; I am aware how wicked its people are.”

Jonah 1:2; GNT

Jonah's task was a very specific one. “But, before the task; “how do I know that God's call is for me?” Someone curious might ask.

When you become so profane {spiritually insensitive} on the signs, in and around your life; abuse of God's grace in your life is inevitable. There are countless people out

there who have remotely no business doing what they do today, or where they are tight now. Millions would still be alive today had they been like “Jacob” rather than “Esau”. If they had paid a little attention to the many signs from God, they would be still alive.

God speaks on a daily basis to all of us. The problem however is, we are too busy to take notice let alone listen.

When God called young Samuel, Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of the prophet Eli. How was the young lad able to answer his Call from God?

We shall dwell on this subject in the next Chapter in this Book.

CHAPTER TWO

JESUS OUR CALL

“In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the LORD...”

1 Samuel 3:1; GNT

In Old Testament times, God would reveal Himself to certain persons He wanted to communicate with via “Visions” and “Trance” {New Testament times}.

1. In the time of Noah:

God spoke to him in a vision. A “Vision” is when God puts images of things He wants to communicate to you in your mind. These images most often are accompanied by words {instructions, corrections or rebukes}.

There is an “Opened” Vision, and there is a “Closed” Vision.

✚ An opened vision is a vision of images, mixed with words God plays before your eyes as though it were projected on a projector screen. This act happens when the person is fully awake. It is similar to watching a movie trailer.

✚ A closed vision is when images mixed with sounds are shown to you by God

when asleep. It is what is popularly referred to as a dream. God determines how best He shows Himself to you, you do not get to pick.

2. In Genesis 15, God spoke to Abraham through a closed vision about his descendants, and all that would befall them. He also gave Abraham the assurance He would fulfill His promises to him.
3. In Exodus 3, God spoke to Moses in an opened vision.
4. In 1 Samuel 3, God spoke to Samuel in an opened vision.
5. In Matthew 1:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22; God spoke to the Lord Jesus in an opened vision. But moments after His Baptism, God began to speak with the Lord without visions, without trance. He spoke as a man would to his friend face-to-face.
6. In the New Testament times: God spoke to the Apostles and many other persons in visions and trances. We shall consider “trance” this time.

“And he became hungry and desired to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance...”
(Acts 10:10; ASV)

The Scripture reference talked about how the Holy Spirit communicated to the Apostle Peter. It said God spoke to him via a trance. What then is a Trance?

A “trance” is a state in which a person appears to be asleep but, still fully aware of what is being communicated to him/her. To explain it in layman’s terms; a trance is a state of “hypnotism” or been “spelled” by God’s Power.

A Closed Vision and a Trance are synonymous in some ways but, difference from the Opened Vision. In opened vision, you are aware of your immediate surroundings. While in a closed/trance, you are unaware until the trance is completed, or you are “broken” out of it by a vigorous shake or loud noise.

Now, in our opening Scripture reference (1 Samuel 1:2), the Bible let us understand how Samuel was able to receive God’s call. It says;

16

In those days, when the boy Samuel was [SERVING THE LORD...]

God speaks to those who revere Him. God speaks to those who worship Him. God speaks to those who acknowledge and accept His Power, Might and Mercy...
God speaks!

Let us consider how He spoke to some persons;

1. In the time of Noah, He spoke to him because; “Noah [lived and fellowship] with God.” (Genesis 6:10.b)
2. Papa Abraham:

The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s home...” [Abram took] his wife

Sarai... [And they started out] for the land of Canaan.
{Faith was what Abraham had} Genesis 12:1-5.

3. Moses:

After his self exodus from Egypt; had an encounter by a well, which led to his conversion from the Religion he had while in Pharaoh's House to serving the Living God of the Hebrews.

"Where is he" he {Jethro, the priest of Midian} asked his daughters. "Why did you leave the man out there? Go and invite him to eat with us?" so [Moses agreed to live] there and Jethro gave him his daughter Zipporah in marriage. (Exodus 2:20-21; GNT) Thereafter, God calls Moses in Chapter 3.

17

4. God formally calls Jesus Christ right after His Baptism by the Spirit when He spoke out from Heaven to Jesus Himself. That indicated Jesus' Own Call. Is it possible for God to call anyone who does not serve Him? Well, the answer is an emphatic "No!"

This is where I need to explain the differences in the many visions most folks experience and are confused over.

There is a huge difference between a "Vision to Call", "Vision of Warning" and a "Vision unto Repentance".

- ✚ **A Vision to Call:** is an authority to operate in the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts we find in the Book of Ephesians 4:11. It is a Call into Service.

- ✚ **A Vision of Warning:** can be given by God to individuals who are threats to God's people. For instance, in Genesis 12:10-20, God "visited" Pharaoh in a vision to warn him of the wrong he did to Abram when he took Sarai, to be his. The Lord sent disease on the king and his people. The king was able to know the cause of the afflictions because; God showed it to him in a dream {closed vision}. THIS APPLIES TO NON CHRISTIANS MOST OF THE TIME.

- ✚ **A Vision unto Repentance:** we see this in the Story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10. God wanted the Religious man, Cornelius and his household saved. It was not enough they were "good" folks who tithed and gave to charity; no! They need to be saved IN the name of Jesus Christ. (John 3:3-5; Roman 10:9-10)

18

The real reason God calls is for service; and He calls only those who are in Christ today. For the Old Testament folks; they were called based on their faithfulness to the Law. But for us of the New Testament Order, we are called by the New and Better Law – Christ Jesus Himself.

If you are reading this Book and have not yet received the Lord Jesus as the Lord of your life, but God shows you endless Vision unto Repentance, PLEASE, I COMMEND

you to present yourself to Him, and get saved by Jesus. For more information on what it truly means to be born again, see publication: “You Must Be Born Again!”

The “General Call”

“When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new being; old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making all mankind his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.”

19

2 Corinthians 5:17-19; GNT

If you are already born again – in the Lord Jesus Christ, then, your Call is to make others who are not God's friends, His friends. You have been tasked with the Ministry of the Reconciliation. You are to bring Christ's message to them: that is your commission and task. It is the same for EVERYONE in Christ.

However, that is a General Call to everyone in Christ.

The "Office Call"

When God handed that task to Jonah, Jonah was not the only prophet in the Whole of the Israel. He was singled out for a specific task.

This teaches us something; though we are all Christians, some will be handpicked by God for special assignments for the general well being of all Christians. {The one appointed included}

Jonah was appointed by God to save the 120,000 kids in Nineveh, to mention the adults and properties.

At one point in his Ministry, the Apostle Paul referred to himself as "the Apostle to the Gentiles"; Jonah was in like manner, "the Apostle" onto the people of Nineveh.

20

So even as General Ministers of the Gospel, God still appoints some into Offices for various tasks.

What has He called you to do for Him? I ask.

"How do I know He is the One truly speaking to me?" someone might ask.

Let us find out how to understand visions from God, and how to run with them.

CHAPTER THREE

UNDERSTAND AND MAKE IT PLAIN!

I will climb my watch-tower and wait to see what the LORD will tell me to say and what answer he will give to my complaint. The LORD gave me this answer: “Write down clearly on clay tablets what I reveal to you, so that it can be read at a glance. Put it in writing, because it is not yet time for it to come true. But the time is coming quickly, and what I show you will come true. It may seem slow in coming, but wait for it; it will certainly take place, and it will not be delayed.”

Habakkuk 2:1-3; GNT

21

In 1 Samuel 3; Samuel was sleeping in the Sanctuary of the Lord and before dawn, the Lord called Samuel. Samuel woke up and answered, “Yes, Sir!” and ran to Eli’s room and said, “You called me, and here I am.” This action repeated itself twice, but at the third; the prophet Eli finally realized that it was the Lord Who called out the young lad. He then said to Samuel, “Go back to bed; and if he calls you again say, ‘speak LORD, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.

Now, 1 Samuel 3:6-7 reads;

Then the LORD called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the LORD, because the LORD had never spoken to him before. So he got up...

HOWTO KNOW IT IS FROM HIM

Has the Lord being speaking to you in visions and trances, and you are not sure if it is from Him? Well, Eli and Habakkuk, both experienced prophets, teach us what to do via the inspiration of the Spirit.

First, the prophet Eli says to us; “Speak LORD, your servant is listening.”

The keyword that the prophet wants us to assimilate is “Listen”. Of course God already knows you are born again and that you are His kid. However, the challenge here is; listening to Him whenever He speaks. The Lord yearns for us to be apt observers when He communicates with us. Take note of the words, the images and any other piece of information He may reveal to you.

22

Next, the prophet Habakkuk educates us by saying;

I will climb my [watch-tower] and [wait][to see what the LORD will tell me] to say and [what answer he will give to my complaint.]

The prophet's lessons come in a 4 power-point presentation:

- i. “**Watch-tower and wait**”: Here he talks about separation. He talks about fasting and prayers. He advices the seeker to have moments of Separations from the hustle and bustle of everyday living to find out the Mind of God

concerning the visions received; whether they are from Him, and what is expected.

- ii. **“To see what the LORD will tell me to say”:**
Here, Habakkuk talks about being alert and observant to the details of the visions God will show you as you exercise Point (i).
- iii. **“What answer he will give to my complaint”:**
Now, this is the crucial lesson to be taken serious. This is because; even the Devil can give visions! (Matthew 13:25). The prophet advises us to ask questions. But that you ask from your knowledge of the Word and not science and technology, or the fables you must have heard while growing up! When God spoke to Moses, Moses asked series of questions to be sure. When Abraham was spoken to in Genesis 15, he asked too! When the Apostle Peter was spoken to in a trance, he interacted with the voice based on his knowledge of the Old Testament teaching of the Prophets. Ask questions! If you get a response, and you are not sure of its validity, consult the scriptures. **“And what answer He will give to my questions.”** (Habakkuk 2:1.b; emphasized mine)
- iv. **“And wait...”** The prophet also let us in on another very vital rule of engagement to follow. He says to WAIT. Be patient even after the visions, and the questions and answers. Search

the Scriptures and run the messages in the visions with the Scriptures. God expects this from you. It is the reason He called at Samuel 3 times. He will come to you again too. The reason is: so that you can be a 100% certain He is the One sending you.

What To Do With The Visions

Again, we find ourselves consulting the words of the Spirit via the prophet Habakkuk.

The LORD gave me this message: “WRITE DOWN CLEARLY ON CLAY TABLETS...”

Habakkuk 2:2; GNT

24

It is of importance to note that: when God gives an individual an assignment to execute, that person should write it down. Take it serious!

Those few images or words will mould and dictate your life. God's messages are ambiguous in interpretation. You can only interpret to the extent He wants you to see. His messages are futuristic in nature. Though, they present you with the present, and a glimpse of the possible future. His messages are “HUGE” in nature; so write down every single thing He shows you or tells you. As you begin to actualize your first interpretation, He enables you to see things you could not possibly have imagined from the same messages. Let see classic example.

One day, the LORD spoke to Jonah son of Amittai. He said, "Go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it; I am aware how wicked its people are."

The task to Jonah was a very brief one when compared to those of say, prophet Isaiah or Jeremiah. Anyway, we find a much greater plan by God after Jonah had repented and gone to the city to proclaim God's message of Judgment.

So, Jonah obeyed the LORD and went to Nineveh...The people of Nineveh believed God's message. God saw what they did; he saw that they had given up their wicked behaviours. So he changed his mind and did not punish them as he had said he would. (Jonah 3:3, 5, 10; GNT)

25

You can now see how that brief message of God's Judgment on the city, turned out to be God's mercy on the city. Write down His messages to you. Do not be lazy!

The "Litmus Paper" – His Word

When your vision is contrary to these comforting words of God, then, it is not from God.

"He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature. Then we shall no longer be children, carried by waves and blown about by every shifting wind

of the teaching of deceitful men, who lead others into error by the tricks they invent. Instead, by speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head. Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided so when each separate parts works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.”

Ephesians 4:12-16; GNT

CHAPTER FOUR

RUN WITH IT! FLY WITH IT!

Now that we have been able to know how to “test” the visions, how do we run with it?

For this question, we look to the prophet Jonah for guidelines.

a) “A Ship to Spain”:

“Jonah, however, set out in the opposite direction in order to get away from the LORD. He went to Joppa where he found a ship about to go to Spain.” (Jonah 1:3)

27

In Ephesians 4:10-11, the Bible says this about the Christ Jesus;

So the one who came down is the same one who went up, above and beyond the heavens to fill the whole universe with his presence. It was he who “gave gifts to mankind”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers.

Just like our opening Scripture reference, some Christians have “boarded ships” about to sail to “Spain”. They are the brethren with clear cut knowledge of their visions, but like Jonah, would rather run away from it than come to embrace it. Is the Lord calling you into a particular Office in the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts, and you do not know which it is? Here is what you need to do: accept the call and start as a teacher of the Word. Be a Word scholar.

Young Samuel did not turn prophet overnight. He was under tutelage of the prophet Eli. "Eli" in this case typifies the Holy Spirit for us today. The Lord Jesus was first referred to as "Rabbi" (Hebrew) or Teacher before He grew, and came into Full Office as the Son of God – the Saviour of the Human Race.

Did you know that you could actually pastor a group of ardent readers with your weekly or monthly Christian Publications you give out to people?

Did you know you could teach a congregation of young and old people with the message of Christ in your songs?

And the exiting thing in both illustrations is that, you can do all that while still as a member in your Local Church.

28

There are people outside your Church that need you, desperately! What has He told you to do as your contribution to the growth of the Body of Christ? What are the visions? It is time to run with it!

Now, least I forget. There is a difference between a "Call to the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts" and a "Call to Benevolence"

The former; "Call to the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts", is much of specificity, and it is voluminous in nature. The expected results for the task get voluminous as you succeed with each phase of the task. Also the visionary is **obligated** to function in this Call. We find this reoccurring decimal in the lives of those God called into the Office of the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts. {Old and New

Testaments} God used them to achieve His desired plans. Did you know the Judas Iscariot was used by God?

So, the “**Call to the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts**” puts the visionary under obligation to the Call.

However, the “**Call to Benevolence**” is for the period it is given. For instance, God might show you a vision of Benevolence toward an immediate need in your local Assembly. It could be that a new projector machine is needed because; the old machine malfunctions intermittently during your meetings.

God may lay it in your heart and mind to get the Church a brand new one. The Call of Benevolence is for the period it is given, and should the visionary fail to run with it, God gives another person the opportunity and the blessings attached to it. There are many of such Calls by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ on a daily occurrence. It is part of how the General Assembly participates in the growth of the Body of Christ.

29

b) “**Let’s Draw Lots...**”

The sailors said to one another, “Lets draw lots and find out who is to blame for getting us into this danger.” (Jonah 1:7; GNT)

Did you ever wonder why the sailors might have had such absurd idea that, the cause of the violent storm was a person? Well, if you did not, I did. You might say it was because; they were pagans and believed in superstitious

mumble jumbles. If I had not known better, I would have agreed with such a line of thought.

First, it is true they were pagans, but at least, they were faithful ones and were not ignorant of spiritual things around them. It showed their understanding of the inner workings of the Supernatural. I mean, these men were seasoned sailors who must have had dozens upon dozens of sea faring experiences of which; bad storms were not an exception. However, on that particular trip, they were scared stiff! They had never encountered such violent and persistent storm until that day. This was what prompted them to cast lots to know whom the culprit was.

I know if it were today, folks would “invent” a lot of fancy Sci-fi names to “baptize” the occurrence. They would tell you, “Oh well, better radio this one in. It is a category 17 storm aka ‘hell-o-death.’” Thank goodness the sailors had enough sense to cast lots.

How does this apply to us today? In your day to day interaction with the people in your immediate spheres; you meet people who are sensitive to the things of the Spirit, and those who are no different from Esau. Have people often told you; “Hey, this so and so you are doing is what you were designed by God to do” Or, “I sense God’s call on your life, have you asked Him about it?” et al.

I know you must have heard dozens of such questions from Spirit sensitive folks in, and around your life. It could be from your Pastor or Youth leader, et al.

I am also certain that your answers would also be in the line of thought: “Hum! Well, I have not really given it much thought.” Please, do give it some serious thoughts. Follow the lessons of faithful old Uncle Habakkuk.

c) “Throw me into the sea”

Jonah answered; “Throw me into the sea, and it will calm down. I know it is my fault that you are caught in this violent storm.”
Jonah 1:12; GNT

The Scripture reference above teaches that;

✚ Unless you willfully submit to the Call of the Lord on our life; by sacrificing our own will for His...

31

✚ The people, businesses you are involved with, et al concerning you will suffer as a result of your stubbornness. Jonah’s stubbornness greatly affected those on that ship, even when he had no real close relationship with any of them! His obstinacy almost cost them their lives.

Your family, true close friends, colleagues and businesses or careers is at risk of suffering when you do not accept your Call.

Remember this: your very life had been designed before your existence by God; and He gave you a particular lifestyle to live by. When you walk out of this life and experience struggles all around, it means that if you had agreed to live by that life; all the provisions already put in

place for you before your existence, will just naturally meet up with you.

But, when you are living outside that life, you will find yourself trying to live other people's lives. The protections that you would have so easily had enjoy with little or no prayers will elude you. You then find yourself struggling to fast, pray and do all manner of things {which are right} with few or no results.

You become somebody else, and this is where the Devil quickly encamps around you himself. He understands the countless human lives your Ministry would impact with the Power of God, and this is bad news to him. So, he frustrates you and makes you abandon God's Call.

32

This is why you incur failures almost everywhere you turn to. Even if you were making "successes", you would still have to struggle to keep them all because; you are not living your live.

HOW TO RUN WITH IT!

1. The Prayer of Repentance:

In the Book of Jonah Chapter 2, we find the prophet pray to God Almighty when he was in the belly of the fish.

From verses 1 to 7; the prophet prayed as though he was trying to entreat God to remember all these “cool” religious things he used to do. His prayer conveyed his apologies and hope of being released based on his past good deeds. He prayed something in this manner:

“O Great and Mighty Lord of Host. I know that I have been rude, but Sir, consider all I have done prior to this moment. I am sorry, please forgive me. If You wish, You can get another prophet. I am sure he would be excited. Honest, I do not really mind at all since I know I have already angered you, once.”

When the prophet noticed that this pattern was not working, he realized it was better to stop being stubborn and obey his God. We then see a change in his pray pattern from verse 8 to 10;

“Those who worship worthless idols have abandoned their loyalty to you. But I will sing praises to you; I will offer you a sacrifice and do what I have promised. Salvation comes from the LORD!” Then the LORD ordered the fish to spew Jonah up on the beach, and it did.

The prophet switched from the use of past tenses to present continuous tenses. "I WILL". At that moment, it indicated that he has had enough of the "failures" or "struggles" in his life. He was sorry, and asked for God's forgiveness, and accepted his Call. God, Who sees the hearts of men, heard Jonah's confessions from his heart. {It was impossible to pray in the fish's belly if he had used his mouth}

Pray to the Lord God. Let Him know you are sorry for the long delay and you are now ready to come into Office.

2. Feasibility Study:

34

So Jonah obeyed the LORD and went to Nineveh, a city so large... (Jonah 3:3.a; GNT)

Jonah understood his targeted audience, the people in Nineveh. He went down to the city and studied it. He went and spotted out areas where the people congregated the most; areas where his message would get to more people.

In like manner, you too have to understand the Mind of the Holy Spirit for the Church. Find out the category of people He wants you to give certain messages to per time. Find out where you are to go and what messages you are to teach the people there, if He has called you to be an Evangelist.

If He has called you to be a Teacher of the Word, find out the topics He want you to teach and write Books on, and the category of people He desires those Books to be addressed to. Remember, His messages to you will always be for the fulfillment of Ephesians 4 concerning the Church of Jesus Christ.

3. Strategy:

That it took three days to walk through it. (Jonah 3:3.b)

It took the prophet 3 whole days to cover the city on foot! He had to because; it was the surest way of assessing areas that may have been great spots to evangelize.

It was serious work for just a Message that contained 19 words! You now understand the magnanimity to the scope of work to be covered. Do not be in a hurry to end up achieving nothing, and think you were not called.

You need to strategize. Have a daily schedule. Train yourself by keeping to it. Review your strategies with the Holy Spirit. Ask for His Help by praying in tongues. He will show you and tell you the things to do. This is important in your entire walk with God. You need the Holy Spirit else, you would walk out not even knowing it.

4. Execution:

Jonah started through the city, and after walking a whole day, he proclaimed, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!"
Jonah 3:4; GNT

After all the feasibility studies and strategizing, it is good to put the message of God to work. Go out there! Spread the message via the channels He has told you to. The Holy Spirit will give you opportunities to carry out your plans and learn from your shortcoming; it is how you grow.

With each execution of plan, comes perfection. Do not be discouraged if only one person turns up for a meeting you might have organized; considering the sheer resource and man hours put in it. Hey! The Master started out with a handful of men. They were his Disciplines and audience at a time. But today, He has legions of us listening to His words, daily.

5. Your “Litmus Paper”

36

The people of Nineveh believed God's message.

(Jonah 3:5)

You should be very observant to the tell-tale signs of the success of your task. This is crucial; as it helps you detect areas in which you need to review and re-strategize; areas you need to ignore completely, and areas that need top priority. Do not be discouraged by the words and actions of those whom God have called you to serve. Do not let their words and actions get to you. I understand how it feels, trust me!

6. Caution!

Jonah was very unhappy about this and became angry.

Jonah 4:1

Now as a Gift of Jesus Christ to His Church, you have your limits too. You do not go about harassing people and flaunting your Office about everywhere! "Hey! You there! Do you know who I am? Get here now and wash my car!"

No, you do not go about to abuse the Authority vested on you. You are no different from a very discipline loyal soldier who carries out the express orders of His Field Marshal.

37

Jonah was angry because; God did not destroy the city as he had proclaimed to the people of that city. You could imagine the embarrassment Jonah must have felt as he walked past the people of the city, weeks after his "Doom Day" message. Do not be angry when they call you "fake" Pastor or Teacher; Evangelist or Prophet, or Apostle.

There will always be those who will call you that. Remember: our Lord's agendas are larger than us. They are ambiguous in full interpretation and full comprehension. However, be rest assured you will be rewarded, richly!

7. Your Rewards:

"Now, LORD, let me die. I am better off dead than alive."

Jonah 4:3

After Jonah had proclaimed the Lord's message to the people in Nineveh, he had expected God to wipe them out the same way He did to Sodom and Gomorrah. However, we discover what would have been today, a "breach of contract".

God forgave the people of the city of Nineveh. Now, the keyword to note is "forgive". God forgave the people because; it was the original purpose for message in the first place.

He already knew the people would repent! God knows all things. He knew the people in that city would fast, pray and repented of their evil ways; He knew Jonah would act the way he did. However, He wants us to learn many spiritual Truths from the Story of Jonah.

38

One of such Truths; is the Call of God on a person's life.

Do not be angry with God when people are not "changing" as quickly as you expect them.

Remember, the message you dispense is not your message. It is God's message and He alone fully understands why He sent you with that message. You will always be rewarded, that is for sure!

Jesus became a Living God Forever after His Works here. You will definitely enjoy God's welfare package as His associate or Ambassador.

There is no employer that pays so well as God!

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Jonah went out east of the city and set down. He made shelter for himself and set in its shade, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh. Then the LORD God made a plant grow up over Jonah to give him some shade, so that he would be more comfortable. Jonah was extremely pleased with the plant. But at dawn the next day, at God's command, a worm attacked the plant, and it died.

After the sun had risen, God sent a hot east wind, and Jonah was about to faint from the heat of the sun beating down on his head. So he wished he were dead. "I am better off dead than alive," he said. But God said to him, "What right have you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah replied, "I have every right to be angry – angry enough to die!"

The LORD said to him, **"This plant grew up in one night and disappeared the next; you didn't make it grow – yet you feel sorry for it! How much more, then, should I have pity on Nineveh, that great city. After all, it has more than 120,000 innocent children in it, as well as many animals!"**

Jonah 4:5-11; GNT

SEE BEYOND THE ORDINARY

GOD BLESS YOU!

PRAYER OF SALVATION

We trust you have been blessed by this Book. We invite you to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life by praying thus:

“O Lord God, I come to You in the Matchless Name of Jesus Christ. Your Word says, “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

I ask Jesus to come into my spirit to be the Lord of my life. I receive eternal life into my spirit and according to Romans 10:9, “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,” I declare that I am saved; I am born-again; I am a child of God! I now have Christ dwelling in me; greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)! I now walk in the consciousness of my new life in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!”

Congratulations! You are now a child of God. To receive more information on how you can grow as a Christian, please get in touch with us through any of the contacts below:

Call: +234-802-867-9934

Whatsapp: +234-703-688-3241

E-mail: okoliementus194@gmail.com

The Author

Background:

Mentus Udoka Okolie is an ardent Word Scholar who tutors in the Youth arm of Ministries seeking his exceptional insights into the Word, granted him by the Holy Spirit.

A former President of the Youth Alive Ministry arm of the renown Living Faith Church, International; a two time Cell Leader, a Sunday School Teacher, and Department Head all in the Ministry; is equipped by the Holy Spirit for the Office of a Teacher of the Knowledge of God, and of His Son Jesus.

41

He is currently a Member of the global impactful Cell Ministry called “The Haven”; an arm of the Prestigious Believers’ LoveWorld, Inc aka “Christ Embassy”.

Current City:

He lives in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Book Bio:

This Book communicates the Mind of the Holy Spirit to you. It is time to return to your true Family.

“Welcome home, my beloved child!” says the Spirit.