

**TERMINATING
ANCESTRAL
&
HEREDITARY
LIMITATIONS**

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REGAM GLOBAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

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Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- Colossians 1:12-14 (NKJV)

DEDICATION

Dedicated to Bishop Duncan Williams whose message
on DVD inspired this work

&

Rev. Dr. Olu David, a deep well of Biblical insights, my
father and mentor.

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I have benefited so much from the munificence of so many liberal people that it is inconceivable for me to do any book without creating space to acknowledge a few of those who directly contributed one way or another to every book. Accordingly, I am indebted to my spiritual mother, Rev Charity Ameh who in one of her teachings, painted such a practical picture of Rachel, (Jacob's heartthrob and the mother of Joseph & Benjamin) that gave me greater understanding of the issue of ancestral & hereditary limitations. By divine ordination, her husband Rev David E. Ameh led the Benue Braves Basketball team that 'gave birth' to my wife and I in the Lord. How would I be writing Christian literature had God not used them to bring me to the fold?

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generation to share some of your experiences. It has been my experience that God has arranged for great and generous parents and mentors to impact my life, family and ministry.

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Debbie Bose Shaguy.

May all decrees that have empowered the adversary against all of you be terminated in Jesus Name. Amen.

Introduction

Bishop Duncan Williams genuinely deserves the credit for this work. Dedicating this book to him is actually the least I can do as this 21st century Apostle and Prophet (whom I have only met through his DVDs) ignited the spark that set the stage for the book.

I had been asking a lot of personal questions. I seemed to be labouring in vain. I had a number of books in print. People told me these were good books. Many people testified to me how my books had blessed them.

My ministry or books had changed their lives or circumstances for the better, people told me all over the place. I had been in situations where the way some people introduced me, I was sure they were talking about someone else. They showered encomium upon me so much I was sure there had been a case of mistaken identity.

One particular Sunday, I went to fellowship with brethren in a particular Church. I hadn't been invited but I was attracted by the spirit of the pastor of that

assembly. I didn't get to minister. That hadn't exactly been my motive. I just wanted to be in the service. Blessedly, the pastor didn't notice me till after the service. He then made much airs about acknowledging me. At the close of the meeting he led an elaborate entourage to escort me to my car. They were 'thoroughly humbled by my humility' as the famous author Terry Shaguy didn't even bother to bring any of his cars but came to the service in public transport. I couldn't afford to disappoint them by confessing that I had no car at the time. This was only an example of people's over-estimation of my material and social value. Their praise of my ministry and person were clearly at loggerheads with my financial and social realities. I was teaching on finances and favour. People were getting financial breakthroughs and all manner of favour through my Teaching Ministry and books. The problem was that I was looking more like a signboard; I was pointing the way to the city of the good life but I wasn't entering that city myself.

I was even privileged to be on international ministry but that wasn't any help. Home or abroad, I ended up with huge testimonies of what God was doing through my ministry and empty pockets or at best stipends. On one distinct trip to Ghana in West Africa, I conducted a four-day meeting for a Church. They had picked me straight from the airport for what was intended to be one day of ministry but they ended up making me minister there for 4 days of their special program. From my human point of view, it was full of the power of God. Finally,

on the eve of my departure for Nigeria, my honorarium was less than Fifty US Dollars (\$50). This was 2009. One particular man who loved me dearly one day looked me straight in the face and said, “Pastor, what’s happening to you? You teach this favour thing and we all get it. We have all sorts of testimonies. But look at you, you have no car although you gave your last car out as a seed. Your wife doesn’t have a good job. You obviously are struggling in your finances.”

He was right. He had actually bailed me out a number of times.

I also believed in and was teaching on divine health via the Holy Communion. People were being healed of all kinds of infirmities. In my house, my last daughter was regularly challenged in her health.

He was right. I tried to shrug his words off but they kept coming at me. I tried to comfort myself with Apostle Paul’s words in 2corinthians 6:10;

As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

It was useless. I had to face it, I wasn’t Apostle Paul and this was in the 21st century. Something was wrong with me. I was giving large offerings everywhere. This was not a problem. Babe (I am keeping my wife youthful just by calling her ‘Babe’) and I learnt giving very early in our Christian life.

Then two major issues happened to make me agree that I needed help.

A dear family lost their car. I took it upon myself to pray for the recovery of that car. Eventually, it was recovered. Unknown to me, they had vowed that if the car was ever recovered, they would give it to a minister of the Gospel who could use it for the work of the ministry. So the car was recovered. They phoned to give me their testimony. I got there to be told cheerfully that they had vowed to give the car to God and they had kept their promise. My heart skipped a beat! Then wait for it, they told me gleefully that they had given the car to another servant of God who even wasn't in our city. I smiled, congratulated them and left. They saw me daily. They knew my commitment to the recovery of that car. They knew I also needed a car. Make no mistake, this family loves me dearly. Yet, God didn't speak to them about me. It wasn't about them. The problem was with me. There was thick demonic congestion over my heavens. My destiny was repulsing good things. Satan wasn't even impressed with my ministerial credentials. Enh... now, I began to accept that I might need some help.

The second issue wasn't long after that. I was listening to a message by Dr. Myles Munroe who testified how someone had a customized gold ring made for him just because this someone had been blessed by Dr. Munroe's book. I was almost sure that someone had bought that book.

I was green with envy. Look at me; I give most of my books out for free. People return testimonies of how

my books have blessed them then they brag about how they sowed to another ministry. Agreed, I am not yet in the class of Dr. Munroe but couldn't I at least expect a decent compensation for all my efforts?

Then the third encounter was actually an advice. I was supervising someone's PhD thesis. One day, unable to relate my work with my 'environment', he summoned courage to tell me that I needed to pray against Harvest wasters. He revealed that if I played ignorant, Satan would be glad to have me labour like an elephant and receive rewards the size of an ant. I believe about this same time, I came in contact with Bishop Williams' message on Terminating Negative Bloodline Patterns. As I began to investigate this area of ministry in my own life, I became more and more convinced that I was in the web of strong ancestral and hereditary limitations. I remembered the many demonic involvement of my ancestors. I also recognized that my life seemed to be following the pattern of my forerunners. I especially remembered that try as I had after the new birth, I was regularly caught in fits of anger. I threw tantrums frequently and repented as frequently. I deliberately went the extra mile to humble myself because I had a running battle with pride. I was also struggling with lying when it absolutely didn't make sense and wasn't necessary. Apparently, I had inherited and was responding to some satanic addictions and appetites.

We conducted deliverance in my immediate family.

Finally things generally began to look up for my family and ministry. Shortly thereafter, I received the largest honorarium ever in any ministration. My first daughter got a scholarship for her undergraduate program, while her siblings also got different levels of scholarships. My wife got a lecturing job in a Federal institute.

I have had the privilege of sharing this line of ministry with individuals, families and congregations ever since. In many cases, the results have been phenomenal.

Please, consider the truths shared in this book in light of Scriptures. If on the other hand you are so blessed that this issue does not directly affect you, be gracious enough not to laugh this away. Moreover, don't be deluded into assuming that all your ancestors' covenants and indebtedness 'passed away' when you came to Christ. Guaranteed, there are exceptions but in the long run, those exceptions are negligible. On the other hand, there are situations where the repercussions of ancestral sins may skip several generations. Then without warning, what had been dormant for several decades or even centuries may suddenly make a vicious re-entrance. In light of this, it is my humble opinion that all should take necessary preemptive steps to close any door the adversary may be planning to use against us or our lineage.

There are indeed certain challenges we face because of what our ancestors did. Isaiah sounded the alarm;

*...the seed of evildoers shall never be
renowned. Prepare slaughter for his
children for the iniquity of their fathers;*

*that they do not rise, nor possess the land,
nor fill the face of the world with cities.
For I will rise up against them, saith
the LORD of hosts, and cut off from
Babylon the name, and remnant, and son,
and nephew, saith the LORD.*

Isaiah 14:20-22.

The choices our parents made can have over-whelming impact upon our destinies. Now for that matter, the choices we make have profound consequences upon our children after us. I wonder if the descendants of Gehazi will ever forgive him. You remember that Elisha's insensitivity to the apprentice-prophet's embarrassing debts, finally forced Gehazi to seek a shortcut to meeting some urgent bills. In 2Kings 5, what started out like an indiscretion suddenly became a generational condemnation. He accepted gifts that his master had rejected from Namaan the Syrian General. An unimpressed Elisha expelled Gehazi from the college of prophets, put him on trial and gave sentence;

*The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall
cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever.
And he went out from his presence a leper
as white as snow. 2 Kings 5:27.*

With the above words, the everlasting generations of Gehazi will be lepers. God said through Moses

*...I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: therefore choose life,
that both thou and thy seed may live:*

Deut. 30:19.

In another place the Lord spoke through Prophet Hosea that His people are destroyed because they lack knowledge. We are probably all familiar with the first part of this sixth verse of Hosea chapter four. But there is something even more bloodcurdling in the concluding part.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6.

Isn't it scary to realize that parents' choice to forget the law of their God will force God to forget their children after them?

What can be more terrible than to know that your children will face perpetual closed Heavens because the Almighty God has forgotten them? What good will your hard work to provide the good things of this life for your family do if you on the other hand play them against the Sovereign Lord God?

Maybe that's why some people never seem to accept grace for salvation in the first place. Maybe that's why.

Yes, children can suffer because of the sins of their parents. Similarly, children can inherit certain negative traits of their biological parents.

When we suffer because of the sins of our ancestors, this is called ancestral limitations.

Where however negative traits or patterns or difficulties or delays or misfortunes are handed over from predecessors, we are up against hereditary limitations.

Now believe me, none of these evils walk away just because we are born again. But there is hope for the New Testament saint who has knowledge. We can terminate them.

This book shows you how.

One
— ■ ■ —
Evil Decrees

*In the day that thy walls are to be built,
in that day shall the decree be far removed.*

Micah 7:11.

Daily, humanity confronts challenges. Everyone at some point or other must encounter his share of difficulties. Make no mistake; every mortal being faces moments of troubles. Most people imagine that if they had enough money, all their headaches would fall down dead. There is nothing much further from the truth. To start with, the first huddle for such people would be to determine how much is exactly 'enough money'. I mean, money has a way of failing to be 'enough'. If you don't believe this, ask corrupt Public Office holders in Africa. No matter how much they have stashed away, they still have their hand in the Public till. In fact one of the attractions of public office at least in Africa is the liberty to loot Government treasuries. All those sit-tight syndromes are only desperate designs not only to steal more but to prevent what has been stolen from becoming

public. In the end, such people discover that billions of Dollars stowed away in Swiss Banks are actually no guarantee for peace. They never stop wanting more.

On the other hand, some people's problems is directly connected to their wealth.

Several years ago, Dr. Myles Munroe said humorously during one of his teachings that he was beginning to think Success could be dangerous to your health!

Now what the icon from The Bahamas voiced in a lighter mood is actually catching up with a lot of people globally. For instance, in certain nations, your ability to afford such comforts of life like luxury cars, homes, jewelry, etc could set armed bandits after you. Your ability to afford the spoils of the Five-star hotels of this world could set a smart waitress/maid after you. If you really look like you can afford to pay Millions in damages, or at least you are big news, some smart lawyer could connive with a gold digger to set you up for accusations of sexual harassment.

True, challenges may differ both in sorts and scope but eventually, everyone gets to face his share. The adversary generally hates your liberty and is always on the prowl seeking to bring you into captivity. Apostle Peter warned humanity on the ministry of Satan who is humanity's arch adversary.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the

faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9.

From this spiritual perspective (and I admire your disdain for any spirituality but whether you accept it or not, the spiritual controls the natural) there are primarily two reasons why we may encounter challenges or difficulties which ultimately bring us into captivity. Prophet Isaiah gives us the two reasons as:

1. Oppression and
2. Justice

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? Isaiah 49:24.

According to this scripture, people get to confront problems because they are helpless against a mighty or strong enemy. They are a 'prey'. This is oppression. On the other hand, normal consequences of certain of their actions or inaction may catch up with them. They may become 'lawful captives'. Now, this is justice. Let me explain this scripture in two practical examples.

First, were a goat to find itself in the vicinity of a hungry lion, the goat most probably wouldn't go scot-free. In this case, the goat is the prey and the lion is the mighty. The goat's only offence is the fact that it is powerless against the lion. The goat will be harshly dominated.

Secondly, were a murderer caught red-handed, tried and convicted under the relevant judicial system, he most certainly should serve the prescribed punishment. He

shouldn't go scot-free. He is a lawful captive. The law should take its course.

Now Satan's first option is to attempt to bring into bondage through oppression. He does this especially by exploiting the ignorance of humanity. You see, in spiritual warfare, ignorance is equal to weakness. In fact The Holy Scriptures say in Hosea 4:6;

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

Because thou hast rejected knowledge...

Conversely, the same Scriptures declare in Proverbs that knowledge is synonymous with power.

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. Prov 24:5.

Therefore where the devil is unable to make a prey of you because through knowledge you are too strong for him, he subtly manipulates you through all manner of temptations to break a law so that he can make a lawful captive of you. Why is this so? The devil knows that all of creation is governed by decrees or laws. Let's take the law of sowing and reaping for instance. There is actually no neutral place in this law. At every point in time, you are sowing something. If you show mercy for example, you are sowing compassion. If you must always get your revenge, you are also sowing cruelty. One way or another, at some point you will reap a harvest. The situation with universal laws is that by failing to do something, you are in fact doing something else. When You break a law, you are in fact obeying another law. There is no lawless zone

in human existence. Life is generally causative. When you do a particular thing, a certain thing results. If you fail to do a particular thing, another certain thing results.

Now the devil's most potent weapon is his subtleness in getting you to do the opposite of what God will have you do in any particular situation. When the devil gets you to obey him, he gladly rewards you with such 'blessings' that block you out of God's best for your life. Therefore, to get at you, he entices you to either run afoul of a good decree and forfeit the provisions of its security or the adversary encourages you to fulfill an evil decree and earn its obnoxious provisions.

The truth of the matter is that whereas God's Word is replete with decrees which promise astounding all-round blessings, there are also many objectionable decrees that seek to negotiate, delay or even frustrate God's blessings upon our lives. One of such loathsome decrees is found in Hosea 4:12-14.

*My people ask counsel at their stocks,
and their staff declareth unto them: for
the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them
to err, and they have gone a whoring from
under their God.*

*They sacrifice upon the tops of the
mountains, and burn incense upon the
hills, under oaks and poplars and elms,
because the shadow thereof is good:
therefore your daughters shall commit
whoredom, and your spouses shall commit*

adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

Hosea 4:12-14.

In summary, here God said that people who are given to idolatry will produce whorish and adulterous daughters and wives. You can now understand why certain communities are notorious for prostitution and adultery. They are yielding to a divine decree.

Isn't it amazing that God promises not to even hold these sins against their women?

I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores...

How come? Because He knows they are under a compelling decree to misbehave. There is the Word gone out that draws their women to immorality. Talk about decrees that limit people to error!

But it is not only God that has the power to issue decrees. Prophet Isaiah lived in a generation where unrighteous decrees were the order. In frustration he cried out:

Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees and that write grievousness which they have pre-scribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away

the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless
! Isa 10:1-2

Confirming the reality of evil decrees, the Psalmist also declared;

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. Ps 94:20-21.

The above verses capture the reality of certain decrees that challenge the manifestation of God's best in human lives. A considerable number of good saints are serving faithfully and are not necessarily struggling with sin in their lives but are hardly able to appropriate many of the benefits of the cross in their lives. In Exodus 23:25-27

The LORD promises to;

1. Bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. Yet many saints are still sick.
2. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: But there are many cases of miscarriages and even bareness among saints.
3. The number of thy days I will fulfill. Still, many Christians are cut down in their prime.

Isaiah 34: 16 God says *none shall want her mate.*

However many singles of marriageable age have

littered our assemblies and denominations.

In Deuteronomy 28:12 the Lord decrees; *...and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

Nevertheless, the body of Christ globally is wallowing in debt.

Then 3rd John verse 2 assures us that above everything else, the Father wants us to make a success of every-thing we do and enjoy divine health commensurate with the prosperity of our souls or proportionate to our knowledge.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Notwithstanding such awesome decrees, the Church generally has not manifested anything near this level of all-round wellness. One thing is however clear. The problem is not with God. God has both decreed and provided for these blessings in our lives.

On the other hand, neither our personal sin nor ignorance has always been responsible for short-changing us of these blessings. There is the ancestral and hereditary dimension to this issue. In the same way that blessings can be passed over from generation to generation, afflictions and limitations can also be generational and hereditary.

Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities. Lam 5:7.

The sins of our ancestors or their involvement with either demon worship or demonic covenants can greatly affect our destinies even after we are born again. In Bible times for example, people took an oath of each other by

putting their hand under their thighs to swear. Why? It was a sign that they had consecrated even their unborn children to the terms of such oaths or covenants. By putting their hands under their thighs which spiritually means their loins from whence their seed would come, they were making their forthcoming generations parties to such agreements. A good example of this mode of oath taking is found in Genesis 24:2 when Abraham sent Eliezer to take a wife for Isaac.

Furthermore, before the Gospel, most lands had served some kind of gods. Most of those gods demanded that all offspring of the faithful be dedicated to their worship and service. When those faithful partook of demon worship and sacrifices, they were requested to dedicate their children and even unborn generations for 'protection'. What parents didn't know was that while they may have received One Cent from the devil in those worships, Satan had entered into agreement with them not only to take a Billion Dollars later but also to have all family members serve him.

Consequently, here you are child of God, many generations down the line. You have accepted the Lord Jesus and have renounced the family shrine. You are now heavenly bound. So, true, Satan cannot stop you from serving the Lord of lords and King of kings. However, based on his agreement with your ancestors even before you were born, the devil has a legal claim to certain aspects of your glory. Yes, he is helpless to take you to hell with him if you don't backslide. Yet, daily Satan invokes certain

provisions of that demonic covenant with your ancestors and says, “Judas or Jennifer, I still have the legal evidence of my agreement with your ancestors that you will serve me. However, you have rebelled against me and have chosen rather to serve the Righteous One. What you are doing is not fair. In any case, although you are set upon this your rebellion, you will still not get married because according to our agreement, you are married to me in the spirit world.” This explains the state of many beautiful Christians (male or female) who are either unable to get married or keep a home after marriage.

It may even be that Lucifer has placed an embargo upon your finances or even health. He may invoke the terms of his agreement with your ancestors to contest your fruit of the womb or any other such aspect of your glory that the terms empower him to negotiate. Thus there are many saints who have good education but can't seem to find good jobs. There are others who are making good money but haven't anything to show for it. Others experience besetting infirmities that seem to defy medical science. Some others still go from one disaster to another. Others struggle with sinful habits like lying, fornication/adultery, stealing, even gluttony, anger, bad temper, drug/alcohol addiction, love of pornographic materials, etc. Some evidently intelligent and hardworking people for some inexplicable reasons can't make progress in their academics or careers. Worst still, some find them-selves unable to make progress in their spiritual lives.

A lot of the above are traceable to demonic

manipulations where limiting decrees are being empowered by ancestral or hereditary sins or covenants.

To breathe the air of liberty, the decrees empowering the adversary to enforce these limitations have to be terminated.

*In the day that thy walls are to be built,
in that day shall the decree be far removed.
Micah 7:11.*

The above Scripture asserts that before the fullness of your glory can be restored or made manifest, the negative decrees empowering the adversary against you must first be removed. It is not enough that you are born again, child of God. The New Birth bestows upon you both the power and privileges to terminate these negative trends where they exist in your life. In Luke 10, the Lord Jesus says:

*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. Luke 10:19.*

Notice that Jesus still needed to give the Born again saint power to confront evil. The Lord didn't give the Church power to ignore evil but to confront it. It is self-delusion and disastrous to hide behind 2Corinthians 5:17 and claim that because you are born again, all evil will drop dead.

“But how about Jeremiah 31:29-30?” Someone may ask.

In those days they shall say no more, The

fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. Jer. 31:29-30.

Yes, the children will no more suffer the consequences of their ancestors' actions because we have sufficient knowledge in the New Testament to confront and terminate such consequences. We will not just wish them away. I mean, didn't He also say that we shall not be sick, we shall not be broke, shall not be barren, etc? Yet, these blessings will not come and knock on our doors. We have to go after them, see?

Besides, the promise in Jeremiah is referring to God's fairness in not judging the kids for their parents' sins. It is not a blanket security against the devil who will seek every conceivable opening to afflict men. In any case, remember that the devil doesn't fight fair and wouldn't be expected to abide strictly by the rules. You've got to enforce the rules and dislodge Satan off your health, home and heritage.

So in the same vein, using Abraham the friend of God and Father of faith's family as a case study, this book traces the existence of ancestral and hereditary limitations and provides the Biblical remedy for terminating them.

Two

In the Father's Footsteps

Abraham by every standard should be a perfect point to commence this discourse. You need to recall that Abraham is not only the father of faith but is the only person in all of Scripture that The Almighty God calls friend. I mean such staggering credentials as the friend of the Almighty Creator should command our attention.

True, in His earthly Ministry the Lord Jesus also referred to the disciples as friends (John15:15) but this certainly is not in the same sense as God's friendship with Abraham.

I consider it relevant to trace the experience of the immediate family of Abraham so that we can confirm the reality of this ancestral and hereditary connection to limitations or negative habits. It is my suggestion that if the friend of God had some not-too-complimentary traits in his lineage, we achieve nothing by claiming that our New Birth has automatically put us above every

negative tendency.

Famine

In Genesis 12 between verses 1 and 8, God spoke to Abraham (Abram at the time) at least twice. In both cases, Abraham clearly understood that it was the Sovereign Lord God that was speaking to him. It is recorded that Abraham obeyed the Lord and relocated from his former abode (a kind of the New Testament New birth). God had promised that He was going to bless Abraham and make his seed great. Thus in obeying God and relocating as he was commanded, Abraham was positioning for the promised blessings and greatness.

Surprisingly, in verse ten of the same Genesis Twelve, a famine forces Abraham and his small family into Egypt.

And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land . Gen. 12:10 .

Abraham reacted to a situation of famine by going abroad. Many years later, his son Isaac who had not been born when Dad escaped famine by travelling abroad found himself in another famine situation. Something in his DNA reacted in exactly the same way his Dad had. He went abroad.

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. Gen 26:1.

What we must keep in mind here is that what the father suffered waited patiently to confront his son. In the same way even today, there is the tendency that we would inherit the afflictions and reproaches of our progenitors or forefathers if we play dumb or negligent to the devices of Satan.

Temptation Abroad

When in Genesis 12:10 Abraham escaped famine by running to Egypt, the first major temptation he faced was how to handle Sarah's lavish beauty. She was such an exceptionally beautiful woman that at over 65 years old, kings suddenly discovered their palaces were empty without her as the queen.

*And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.
Gen 12:14-15.*

Again, like his father many years before, when Isaac yielded to the pressure of famine to sojourn in Gerar, the first thing the natives noticed was the striking beauty of Rebekah. This became a moral temptation for Isaac.

I think it was Dr. David Oyedepo Chancellor of the Covenant University, Sango Ota, Nigeria and Presiding Bishop of the Living Faith Ministries who once said;

“your blessings are not from abroad but from above.”

I have loved this phrase personally and have echoed it wherever I have found a listening ear. You will particularly notice that in the case of Isaac, God had to stop him in his tracts on the way to Egypt and instructed him to dwell in Gerar.

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee... Gen 26:1-3.

What is very instructive is that although he obeyed God, remained in Gerar and was resultantly prospered, in making travelling abroad his first choice without consulting with The Provider, he had opened himself to avoidable temptation.

Evidently this was becoming a case of like father, like son. A pattern was building.

Many years later, another man who rushed abroad in search of greener pastures without first clearing with The God of all the Earth, was not as blessed. In Ruth Chapter 1, Elimelech gathered his family and fled from Bethlehem-Judah because of famine. He went to Moab. In the space of Ten years, he lost his life and his two sons who were survived by an aged mother and two young widows. His entire name was in danger of extinction

until a brave widow returned with Naomi to the same place her father-in-law had fled many years earlier. (Read the beautiful account in my book, *The Generation Of RUTH: Winning Against Intimidating Odds (No Excuse For Failure)*).

Another wise person said;

“a lizard in Nigeria for instance, can’t suddenly become a crocodile on the streets of New York.”

This is another of my favorites. I reproduce this phrase also wherever I find people desperate to travel abroad. In most cases, such people can’t even be trusted to boil an ordinary egg for their own breakfast.

They are so indolent and unreliable. Yet they imagine that travelling abroad will solve all their problems. Am sure you know a few of them. Some of those your relations and friends that have not fulfilled any of their promises to you. Many of them are of the stock of Elimelech. Many of them can’t afford a telephone call. Many of them are in jails.

You are just disturbing yourself complaining that they haven’t sent you anything. If they have the opportunity, they may beg you to send them Garri (Cassava flour) from Nigeria.

Like Elimelech, many have ejected themselves out of where their provision is sure. Now with nobody to turn to but too proud to retrace their steps and pick up where they left the pieces of their lives, they have fallen into all kinds of temptations. Avoidable temptations. The young women peddle sex for cash. The young men are

perfecting all kinds of scams. If such people are able to make anything and support a family, they are most likely to sustain another generation of crooked people, if anything, a little worse than themselves.

Beautiful Ladies in the Blood: Big Loads in the Bargain.

You must have noticed that this was a family that had eyes for beautiful women. However, you will notice also that these dazzling beauties were major challenges perpetually.

In Genesis 12, Abraham's Sarah is described as being very fair. In Genesis 24, Isaac's Rebekah is also described as very fair. In Chapter 29, Jacob's Rachel is called beautiful

And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. Gen 12:14.

And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nabor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. Gen 24:15-16.

*Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was
beautiful and well favoured.
And Jacob loved Rachel...
Gen 29:17-18.*

The Hebrew rendered fair in both Genesis 12:14 and 24:16 is the word 'yapheh' which means beautiful. In other words, all the men in this lineage doted on beautiful women. It was in the blood. They were naturally attracted to beautiful women.

You can therefore appreciate the winless situation Leah found herself. Although Laban had deviously smuggled her into Jacob's bed, she could never hope to appeal to the trickster. She didn't have what it takes. It wasn't her fault. It was a hereditary issue. These men were attracted to beautiful women and Leah simply didn't have it. It didn't matter how hard she prayed or how much she submitted or how fruitful she was, she wasn't going to be loved. In fact Genesis 29:31 confirms that she was hated.

*And when the LORD saw that Leah was
hated, he opened her womb...Gen 29:31.*

So who hated Leah? Jacob, that's who. He never forgave her for conniving with her father to defraud him on his wedding night. Therefore no matter how hard she tried, this offense coupled with her plain appearance conspired perpetually against Leah. Only award winning beauties caught the fancy of these dudes and she just didn't have it.

The Men of Abraham's lineage had eyes only for smashing beauties. However you will recall that it was

even because of such endowments that they became heavy loads. For Abraham and Isaac, in many of their travels it would have been safer if their wives were not so beautiful.

In Genesis 12 and 20 Abraham lied because of Sarah's good-looks.

In Genesis 26 Rebekah's beauty forced Isaac to fail the moral test of honesty. He lied about their matrimonial status.

Yet, the worst was to happen in the time of Jacob. Rachel's beauty made him to serve 14 years just to get married. Even God's strategy to prevent his marriage to Rachel and steer him clear of the many sorrows she would cause him, didn't deter Jacob. In the end, he ended up with 4 wives although he had only bargained for 1 Rachel. This entire confusion will result in much family strife many years later.

Jacob lost Rachel through a hasty sentence of judgment in the matter of Laban's stolen idols, on their way out of Syria.

His love of Rachel spilled over to her Joseph whom he treated with such unbridled partiality that the children of the other wives became enraged and sold the favorite into slavery. This made Jacob live a good part of his later life in grief.

Today, there are still men of the offspring of Jacob. They will pay any price for a Rachel and will brave the consequences. If however they end up with a Leah, she is doomed to a marriage of misery. The man simply

will have no time for her. The greater problem is that today's Rachel is more of a spiritual thing than physical attraction. Therefore, it is common to see a married man still desperately in immorality with a concubine across the city. Circumstances have forced Leah on him. Yet his affections crave the embrace of Rachel (maybe his childhood sweetheart). Therefore no matter what the wife at home does to genuinely win him, she fails. She simply isn't Rachel.

This is why there are so many cases of broken homes in these days where men have taken upon themselves to change God's divine order of marriage. Civilization has changed marriage from 'till death do us part' to 'until you no longer serve my purpose.'

That's why a man calmly proposes divorce and honestly tells his wife; "I don't have anything against you Joyce, but all this marriage was my Mum's idea in the first place. I really do love Jane".

Jane is actually his Rachel and maybe Mum had manipulated him into marrying Joyce because of envisaged financial advantage. The irony is that today, several times the 'Rachel' in the guest house is not even as beautiful as the 'Leah' at home. It is a spiritual thing.

Barrenness: Men or Women?

Working on this book has positioned me to counsel men to exercise restraint in apportioning blame when there are delays concerning childbearing. The example of Abraham's family line clearly indicates that delay does

not always have to be the fault of the woman. Neither is our immediate sin necessarily responsible, nor is it adumbrative of the lady having ‘misbehaved’ before marriage.

Of course even before now, I have always been aware that physiological, health and psychosexual factors could interfere with a man’s reproductive ability. However, in the course of this book, I have been con-fronted with the rude reality that men could inherit de-lays from their ancestors. In Genesis 16:1 we are told that Sarah Abraham’s wife had delay. Although the King James Version which is my primary resource material renders this in several places as barrenness, I have elected to improve on it a little by calling it delay. This is be-cause at some time, all these women under reference had children. Barrenness means ‘unable to bear children’ which was actually not the case with these women.

Now Sarai Abram’s wife bare him no children... Gen 16:1.

Genesis 25:21 reveals that Isaac who came after much delay, reproduced this delay with his wife Rebekah. It is written;

And Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

True to family tradition, Jacob, the product of delay experienced his own delay with his two original wives, Leah and Rachel. The Bible records in Genesis 29:31;

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

Now you don't open something that is already open. If God at some point had to open the womb of Leah in compensation for her loss of Jacob's affection, this is transparent evidence that before this time her womb also had been closed. Thus we conclude that even Leah sustained the tradition of delay.

Meanwhile whereas Leah's womb was opened after an evident period of delay, Rachel can be said to have experienced supper delay.

Jacob's heartthrob had no children until after Leah and the two concubines had had 10 children between them.

The situation we find here is that Abraham also transferred delayed childbearing to his offspring. Therefore young woman, if you were married to any of those fellas, you were going to experience delay. It didn't matter how pure you had kept yourself before marriage. Rebekah, Leah and Rachel also kept themselves till marriage. It didn't matter how much your husband loved you. A man loved Rachel enough to serve 14 years for her hand in marriage but delay or barrenness wasn't intimidated. It was also of little consequence how faithfully you served in the Church or who your gynecologist was.

It didn't exactly have to do with how faithful you were to your spouse or to God for that matter. It was a hereditary issue and if you happened along, you had to face it. The men actually were the problem.

Today, many homes still face such challenges. The good news however is that in this dispensation of the Church, we have the knowledge, authority and power to deal with these things.

A ‘Harmless’ Lie Becomes a Family Tradition.

Abraham received a promise direct from God that the Lord would prosper and make him great. I mean he didn’t read it from the book so there was no possibility of misrepresentation. The Almighty God met with Abraham, it would seem face to face, and gave a promise.

Abraham believed God and acted immediately. Genesis Twelve declares;

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Gen 12:4-5.

You would expect that someone who acted swiftly on his faith would also be convinced that God was able to preserve him from all evil. Nevertheless, from verses Eleven and Twenty, he that had heard clearly from God that he was going to be prospered and preserved

developed cold feet in Egypt and told lies about his true relationship with Sarah (Sarai) his wife. He elaborately spelled out his fear of the Egyptians whom he reasoned could kill him because of her.

And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. Gen 12:11-13.

Thus, the very man who had a personal encounter with God about his welfare yields to fear and tells the first lie to preserve his neck. Graciously, God had to intervene to save Sarah. Again, a mobile Abraham found himself in Gerar. Once more, his gift of discernment manifested. He rightly reasoned that his new neighbours would attempt to make a queen out of Sarah. They would consider it only natural that a beauty like Sarah should be Abimelech's queen. Once more, he was right.

And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech

*king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.
Gen 20:1-2.*

For the second time, God intervenes to deliver the stunning Sarah from a lustful king. Now before we proceed to the main object of these accounts, let us take notice of two important facts.

First, to the ladies: As captivating as the gorgeous Sarah was, she was nonetheless totally submissive to her husband to whom in any case, Scripture records that she was obedient to the point of calling Abraham lord.

*Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling
him lord: 1 Peter 3:6.*

I suppose one reason God always showed up was because of Sarah's unalloyed submission to her husband. You know, God intervenes in many homes simply because of the virtues of the wife. I recommend this virtue of complete surrenderedness for all women.

Now to the men: Never forget that at this stage of Abraham's walk with God, nothing was definite. He had heard from God but he was as then unsure of even where to settle. The Bible records that he was moving from place to place and did not have a permanent place of abode. He lived a life of pilgrimage. His generation is recorded as seeking a country (Hebrews 11:14). They lived a nomadic life and therefore we must appreciate their constant apprehension of the cultures and characters of the natives among whom they dwelled. In consequence, we must not be eager to accuse them of cowardice. We must recount their apparent inability to defend their

wives with a sense of meekness.

On the other hand, in our days, any man who demands this level of 'submission' from his wife needs his head examined. In fact I should be glad if called upon to flog him personally.

Recently, I heard the story of a man who passionately recounted how a co-tenant regularly beat up this man's wife. My dear wife heard the man in question narrate the story of how a co-tenant regularly beat up his wife, many times leaving her face swollen. As my wife incredulously recounted this story, all my system was rebelling. I feared if I had the opportunity, I would do something very stupid. I would lay my hand upon a good cane and thrash somebody. Do you guess whom I would have loved to whip? The fellow who openly bragged (actually he was reported to be lamenting his lack of means to deal with the situation) about another man beating his wife. Any man who is man at all would rather die than have another man come and beat up his own wife even once. But to have it happen repeatedly and even have any one hear it from your mouth, you have to be worse than an idiot. You have to be in a mild stage of insanity.

In the same way, in our age, no man should be such a coward as to deny his wife and have some powerful king take her over. But Abraham lived in an entirely different generation. He lied about his wife.

Now, from the time that God first met with Abraham, it was Twenty-five years later that Isaac was born. In effect, Isaac was not yet born when Abraham lied about

his wife. In Genesis 25:20 we are told:

And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife...

Therefore, from the time God met Abraham and the time Isaac got married was Sixty-five years. This would mean that from the time Abraham first lied about Sarah his wife to the time that Isaac got married would be somewhere over Sixty years. Then we don't exactly know how long Isaac was married to Rebekah before another famine forced them to Gerar (Genesis 26:1). What we know of a certainty is that like his father, Isaac also lied about his wife in Gerar to save his hide.

And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon. And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife. And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her. Gen 26:6-9.

Thus father Abraham had lied and now his son Isaac lies. The exact circumstances as his father presented

themselves and from within his gene, something offered 'lying' as the way out.

Many years later, Isaac reached the evening of his life. He knew his days were numbered and so decided it was time to transfer the Abrahamic covenant blessings to an heir. There was no confusion about it. He knew precisely for whom it was. It belonged to the first born.

Notwithstanding, this was a blessing from the soul or heart. It wasn't from the hand. Therefore, it couldn't be bestowed at the mere pronouncement of the older man.

It wasn't like material wealth to will to someone. It wasn't a cheque you could just sign and put someone's name on. This was spiritual and required that certain spiritual procedures be observed.

Hence Isaac gave Esau his first son elaborate instructions on how to connect with the blessing. Esau in any case was his favorite. The Bible declares;

*And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.
Gen 25:28.*

Thus he told his eldest son;

*Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.
Gen 27:3-4.*

You will notice that although Esau was evidently

Isaac's favorite, the older man understood that since it was a spiritual thing, the full spiritual procedure must be followed. He couldn't just say, 'Boy, kneel down! I want to hand this thing I received from my father Abraham to you.' No he couldn't say that. If he did, they would all be wasting their time. This was one blessing he actually couldn't dispose or transfer at his whim and caprice.

Even the transferor of this blessing had to obey God who is the owner of the blessing. You couldn't communicate this blessing until you were accepted as a prophet.

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.
Matt 10:41-42.

Only the prophet could pronounce this blessing. Therefore, you needed to provoke it by receiving your prophet in the name of a prophet. Now mind you, this is not about calling anybody 'Prophet' or 'Pastor' or 'Bishop' or 'Reverend' a million times in three minutes. It isn't even about kneeling or prostrating. This is about giving an offering that touches the soul because that's why the prophetic flow will issue from.

Now I believe you are receiving understanding why after all those hands have been laid on some people and all those drums of oil have been poured on them, they haven't manifested the slightest grace of those whose spiritual abilities they admire and desire.

Let me further shock you a little. When it comes to spiritual things, no matter how much anyone loves you, he is powerless to transfer anything to you because it is not his property to dispose. Anyone who loves you will teach you how to fulfill the conditions for getting it.

How did Elisha get the double portion? It was through ministering to Elijah.

How did Joshua get to become the one who received the spirit of Moses? It was by ministering to Moses.

Think about this. Hebrews 7:7 states;

*And without all contradiction the less is
blessed of the better.*

How then was Joshua Moses' minister? Do you think he was just praying for Moses? No. He was ministering to the material and physical needs of Moses. Maybe he washed his clothes, polished his shoes, made sure he had time to eat no matter the tight schedule. He was probably in charge of Moses' share of the offerings brought to the sanctuary. I should think when he came back from that failed expedition with the other Eleven in Numbers 13, he had a few fruits specially selected for Moses.

On his own part, Elisha was famous as the man who poured water upon the hands of Elijah. He connected the double portion by attending to the material needs of

Elijah.

A friend of mine based in Europe was attending a really big conference in the US. This conference was by a world renowned Minister of the Gospel. I counseled this my pastor-friend to break the bank and purchase a really special gift for the Man of God. He took my advice seriously and got a specially 'good' gift. At break time during one of the days, he sent a note to the Man of God seeking to say 'hello'. He was obliged. Then he presented his gift and in the plain sight of every person who had come from various continents for the conference, the senior Man of God displayed and appreciated this gift. Within minutes and amidst tight security, they were taking photographs and getting seriously acquainted. The Man of God then prayed for him specially. Because of just this public acquaintance with such a 'big' Man of God, my friend told me he became the cynosure of all eyes.

On return to Europe, other ministers from other nations were still courting his friendship because they imagined he must be very solid to have connected at such a high level.

Let me tell you what I think. There would be some other precious ministers there who also desired to connect with the 'big' Man of God. They also probably secured an appointment and told him how proud they were of what he was doing and how the conference was blessing them and other people globally. Finally, they most likely assured him they were praying for him. He most likely smiled at them, shook their hands and said 'thanks a lot'.

All of this took place in a corner all unnoticed, except for the Security detail who watched attentively to be sure the big' Man of God wasn't about to be attacked.

Let me share with you. Every father or mentor has two blessings. The blessing of his hand and the blessing of his heart. You get the blessing of the hand by making a request. You secure the blessing of the heart by giving a 'venison' or soul-touching offering.

So the blessing Isaac was about to transfer to Esau had to be secured with a soul provoking offering. Therefore, the younger man needed to go look for it. Meanwhile, Rebekah to whom God had revealed that Jacob would indeed bear the blessing had other plans. She quickly got Jacob to get a goat within the flock. In a short while, she had Isaac's soup ready. It was perfect in every way. She knew her husband well.

At her urging, Jacob took the 'venison' to his father so that he could get the blessing. He approached the tent door, took one last futile look at his mother, got the necessary encouraging smile and stepped into the tent where Dad sat. The Older man noticed the entrance. Though his eyes were dim with age, he nonetheless followed the direction of Jacob's entrance. Jacob cleared his throat slightly and called; " My Father"

"Here am I; who art thou, my son?" Isaac asked.

(1) "I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me".

"How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son?"

(2) “Because the LORD thy God brought it to me”.

And Isaac said unto Jacob, “Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.”

And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said,

(3)“The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau”. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his Brother Esau’s hands: so he blessed him. And he said, “Art thou my very son Esau?”

And he said,

(4)“I am.”

And blessed him...

In the foregoing manner, we find Jacob lying to his father. In Genesis 27:18-25, 27, we find Jacob lying at least 4 times to his father. Lie had germinated and was indeed bearing fruits in the Abrahamic lineage.

First Abraham had lied to save his life.

Second, his son Isaac reproduced the same pattern of lying.

Third now, Jacob the second generation son of Abraham lied not just to preserve himself but for the shoddier purpose of stealing another man’s blessing.

Fourth, Jacob’s Ten sons and third generation children of Abraham will conspire against Joseph, sell the dreamer into slavery, kill a goat and splash the blood on Joseph’s coat of many colours then lie to their father that they were ignorant of the fate of their younger brother from Rachel (Genesis 37).

For this family, lie was in the blood. It was in their gene. It was generational. Their DNA found both the grace and the reason to lie. It came to them naturally. It was ancestral. One generation passed it over to the next..

Now there are many families where certain vices come naturally. There are families that lie compulsively.

Other families manifest demonic bursts of anger or temper. In the early 1990s we used to have a brother in Church who confessed to licking his fiercely angry grand-father's saliva from a spoon. He confessed that his frequent fits of anger were traceable to that initiation.

Some families swing between moods. One moment they are very cheerful and sociable. The next moment they recoil into their shells and attempts to get friendly with them may be met with unbelievable hostility.

Other families have stinginess running down their ancestral tree. Rather than part with anything, they would rather keep it until it becomes completely useless and then they will gladly throw it away. There are families where entire generations have understood wretchedness as a prized family asset. It runs in the gene. Every member understands and accepts that they are not allowed to amount to anything. They understand and celebrate mediocrity.

There are families where from generation to generation, the girls must get pregnant at home before marriage. In other families, miscarriage rules. There must be several miscarriages before the first baby eventually stays. Members of certain families (male or female) will

not get married before they reach a certain alarming age; say 40 years for example.

On the infirmity level, there are entire generations that suffer certain afflictions like bad eyesight, loss of teeth at middle age, etc.

There are hordes of other examples but the point being advanced here is that there are certain vices or habits or afflictions that are transferred from generation to generation. Therefore, it shouldn't be such a strange thing if we come against such patterns or if we personally are faced with such limitations.

Above all, always keep in mind that the core of this book is not just to demystify these afflictions and limitations but also to proffer ways of overcoming them.