



**PEACE
MONEY CAN'T
BUY**

NGOZI NWOKE

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NIGERIA

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I appreciate all who contributed in one way or the other to my life and to this book. God bless you.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

Introduction

Chapter One

The Benefits of This Peace

Chapter Two

The Source of This Peace

Chapter Three

Causes And Consequences of No Peace

Chapter Four

How To Acquire This Peace

Chapter Five

Peace Boosters

Chapter Six

Some Biblical Examples

Conclusion

What Next?

DEDICATION

To the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who gave the inspiration

PREFACE

There was a big storm on this precious day: the wind was boisterous and was uprooting big trees. Roofs were blown off homes and office buildings, with everybody running hither and thither: some to underground shelters or basements. There was chaos everywhere. But a little old woman lay sleeping peacefully in her bed at home, oblivious of the storm and the havoc it was causing.

Long after the storm had stopped, she came out of her house to discover that there was a storm the night before, and saw debris littered everywhere. The old woman simply smiled to herself. She believed that even if she had walked through the valley of the shadow of death, that God would be with her and protect her from harm. She feared no evil, because of her trust and confidence in her God. No wonder He granted her **PEACE** and protection in the midst of the terrible storm.

Peace has become a scarce commodity in our world today. Everywhere you turn, you find trouble or chaos: country fighting against country, one religion against another, tribes or ethnic groups against one another, family against family, etc. Some people have reached a point where they are no longer sure of returning home in peace. Truly, many today have lost the hope of enjoying a peaceful life.

The valuable lessons contained in this book in your hands are guaranteed

to restore hope if you are feeling hopeless, and to direct you to the only source of eternal peace that is sure to transform your life.

Can the little old woman's kind of peace be duplicated in your life? Is it possible to enjoy such peace even though there is chaos and confusion all around you? Is it possible to be at peace even when things are not going the way you desire them to? Can you go through fire and not be burnt, or through a flood and not be swept away? What can this peace do and not do for you? What will you lose if you don't have this peace? How do you secure, increase and maintain this peace? What actually was the little old woman's secret? I plan on answering all these questions in this book.

This book will empower you to take charge of your life, and not allow circumstances and situations dictate your actions and determine things for you. Also, it is hoped that this book will put a smile on your face, cast off all fears and cause you to stand as a victor and not a victim. You will not only enjoy peace, but will also be transformed into a peacemaker.

INTRODUCTION

Let me start by painting a picture of what is happening around us today and why many desire peace, but are far from attaining it. Unfortunately in our world today, things that are meant to bring us peace and joy also have the ability to take from us whatever peace we have.

Take technology for example: it brought a lot of transformations, speed and efficiency to the world, but has also increased the factors afflicting our peace of mind. As a matter of fact, it has raised some concerns that were not there before.

For instance, as good and wonderful as the internet technology is, it has now reduced the effectiveness of parental controls. Children now have access to all manner of things without their parents' approval and knowledge. Even if parents are able to control their children at home, what happens outside the home?

Technology has robbed some people of their jobs. In some cases, like the use of the ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode), it has made it easy for some crooks to steal other peoples' identity and money.

Knowledge is another thing that has increased greatly in our society today, just as it has also stolen our peace from us. There are so many dos and don'ts about foods and gadgets, that it has generated more fear than

peace in some people. Where there is fear, you find all manner of evil. Fear brings torment and when your mind is tormented sickness and diseases are inevitable, no matter how cautious you are of what you eat, drink or use.

Many parents can no longer send their children to school without worrying about their safety, because of the atrocities in the society today. Even the once normal freedom to play outside the houses is now reduced because of the fear of split-second kidnappings.

The desire to be able to afford and enjoy more than the basic needs has taken away peace from many people too. People are forever calculating how else to increase their income that some have taken it to a negative level of anxiety.

Families are torn apart because of discontentment and a lack of adequate time spent together. Parents are so busy trying to make ends meet that they forget that money alone will not build a loving and happy home. They fail to make out time for their spouses and children, and the family bond is not built. The economic crunch is really hitting the world hard.

Furthermore, unhealthy competitions in the offices are sapping strength and peace from their victims. People will go to any length to outshine or eliminate their competitors. They engage a lot of lies and blackmailing, and some even go to the point of killing their competitors.

The list is endless. The truth, however, is that there are MANY in the world today, who are faced with the same challenges as others, but are still able to remain calm and are at peace. This is the kind of peace that money cannot buy. How can one get it?

If peace could be purchased with money, then the wealthy would have easy access to it. In other words, we would have a situation where wealth guarantees peace; which means the poor may not have or enjoy peace. But thank God, it is not so! We know that the wealthy are not necessarily peaceful, and many poor people enjoy peace.

My question is, “Where and how can we get this peace?”

CHAPTER ONE

THE BENEFITS OF THIS PEACE

What Peace Is This?

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Peace is a state of being calm and quiet: a state of living in friendship with somebody without arguing or fighting (Oxford advanced learner's dictionary). It is also just like what one servant of God said in one of her teachings, a state of having hope, being at rest and having absolute trust in God

There is the peace that passes all understanding, the type that makes one to keep smiling even when everything around you is turning upside down. You remain calm regardless of the gravity of the challenges you are confronted with. Remember God's peace has the capacity to guard your heart and mind. Doesn't the word of God admonish us to guard our hearts?

This peace assures us of a better tomorrow,
and that gives hope and the strength not to
quit when faced with challenges or

uncertainties.

This peace assures us of a better tomorrow, and that gives hope and the strength not to quit when faced with challenges or uncertainties. I am talking of the kind of peace that when one possesses causes you to be the one encouraging and comforting those that may seem to be in better situations than yourself. You find yourself encouraging those that are physically speaking more prosperous or even healthier than you. A man who has this peace believes that all things work together for good for them that love God, thus fearing no evil from any place or person.

This peace is what we need in this unpredictable world. This peace cannot be bought with money; neither can it be manipulated by power or position. It cannot be hidden; rather, it is evident in the person who has it. It is a respecter of nobody, but desired by everybody. It is not the preserve of a particular race, gender, country, etc.

The good news is that all who desire it has equal access to it: the old, young, rich, poor, the literate and illiterate. Certainly you are not exempted from enjoying this peace. It is yours if you are ready to embrace the source of this peace, which you will get to know later in this book.

What Will This Peace Do For You?

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Before agreeing to commit to anything, humans always want to know what is in it for them; they want to know what their benefits or profits will be. The question that could be going on in someone's head right now is, "If I go for this peace you are talking about, will it solve all my problems? Which problem will it solve?" I have good news for you: there is definitely something in it for you if you are willing to embrace this peace.

Peace of mind will give you a rested soul and body. It will keep away worries, stress, depression, high blood pressure and heart-related diseases.

Below are some of the benefits embedded in this peace, bearing in mind that it is a state of having hope, being at rest and having absolute trust in

God.

GOOD HEALTH

Many covet good health, irrespective of who they are or what they have. However, many lack sound health; many are sick, and some are hospitalized because they lack peace of mind.

Peace of mind will give you a rested soul and body. It will keep away worries, stress, depression, high blood pressure and heart-related diseases. This reminds me of my mother who thought it was her duty to worry over everything. Unfortunately, she developed high blood pressure and died untimely. We really miss her.

It is our maker's perfect desire that we live in perpetual good health; hence one of Christ's missions on earth was to restore health to humanity (John 10:10; Acts 10:38; Matthew 8:16-17). Your access to peace gives you full access to this much-needed good health.

POSITIVE MINDSET

Every living being needs to possess a positive mindset to be able to fit in and succeed in this world. Possessing a positive mindset makes a great difference between the conqueror and the defeated, the winner and the loser.

People who enjoy peace are always positive-minded. They always

expect good and think positively of people and situations. They don't get unnecessarily worked up, imagining that things will certainly go wrong. They are generally optimistic, regardless of the prevailing situation. They tend to see beyond the here and now, to a brighter and glorious future.

Peace acts as a cushion for the mind and does not allow negativity to creep in in anyway. It helps you to make the right decisions and take the right steps towards a more profitable outcome.

HOPE

Hope is a needed ingredient for living a fulfilled lifestyle. It is said that a living dog is better than a dead lion, because when there is life, there is hope (Ecclesiastes 9:4). To be hopeless is to be as good as dead.

The peaceful are hopeful, and the hopeful are peaceful. When you are hopeless, you will become helpless. Life comes to a standstill for you, and opportunities might come and pass you by without you noticing them. The energy to forge ahead is drained from you, and you are most likely going to be moving around in circles.

The peace of God is a powerful tool for building hope. Hope gives you something to look forward to. Hope gives you an assurance that everything will work out for your good, and you will expect it to be so. You will look at that brewing storm you are confronted with and smile,

knowing that this too is just for a moment and will also pass.

BUILD AND FORTIFY RELATIONSHIPS

Peace within you will manifest in your response to issues and people. People will be drawn to you because they enjoy the peace that surrounds you; a peace devoid of tension. They will always be drawn to you because being with you is like “medicine” to their challenges. Possessing this peace will make you a peacemaker, and cause you to enjoy your relationship with others.

You will also enjoy a better working environment. Have you ever worked with someone who fights with everybody and over everything? Not a person to be with, right? Such a person does not have peace of mind, and is only venting it out on things and people instead of seeking for help.

But a peaceful person can help a troubled person, and has the capacity to influence change in the work place. Peace is contagious. However, you can't give what you don't have no matter how much you desire to do so. It is only when you have this peace I am talking about within you that you can affect the people and circumstances around you.

CREATIVITY

In a world full of competitions, creativity is what keeps you steps ahead

of others. The old ways of doing things is one of the reasons why people are stagnated. If you want to move forward then you need to be creative. But how can you when a troubled mind won't allow you to think?

Peace enables one to be creative. The mind is restful, not crowded with worries and negative thoughts. A peaceful mind is observant and very attentive; and ideas are quick to settle on a calm mind.

Peace of mind is the first step to creativity. King Solomon the wise king was able to build all he did and write those profound proverbs because he had peace. God gave him rest on every side (1 Kings 5:4).

SATISFACTION AND CONTENTMENT

This awesome virtue has eluded many because of a lack of peace. Many keep chasing after satisfaction and contentment, but it is ever beyond their reach. Ironically, the more they acquire things, the more dissatisfied they become.

While it is good to aim for a better life, note that only the peaceful can be satisfied and contented with every level of progress, giving glory to God. Greed and peace don't go together. A greedy person is never at rest, because he can never be satisfied.

Peace of mind helps you to celebrate every little thing you have or have achieved, and be contented as well. You see every stage of success as

the beginning of greater feats, because a full bucket of water is only a collection of drops of water. Embrace peace, and see satisfaction and contentment become your constant companions.

FAVOUR

A peaceful person is a highly favoured person. Everyone wants to be a blessing to that person who never gives or entertains troubles. As long as it is within my ability, I will always go out of my way to help any peaceful person, because helping such will give me joy and satisfaction.

Joseph, the dreamer boy, enjoyed the tremendous peace of God. When things were not going according to his dreams, he remained at peace, and God caused him to enjoy untold favour everywhere they put him: the pit, Potiphar's house, prison, and finally the palace (Genesis 39:4, 21).

Peace within you is like a magnet for favour both from God and man. I remember the testimony of one Christian brother. There was scarcity of fuel at one time in his country and this affected transportation: there were more people at the stations than the available cabs could carry. So, the people got pushing and shouting whenever a cab came.

When a particular driver stopped to help out, people rushed and were squeezing themselves anyhow into the car. The man got angry and ordered everybody out and drove off, only to stop right in front of this

brother who was not pushing and shouting. The cab driver asked him alone to enter the cab and drove him, not just to where he could get another cab home, but straight to his house! Peace attracts favour anytime.

What This Peace Will Not Do For You

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Sometimes we wish everything would go the way we want them to, without any effort on our part. I wonder what the world would be like if it were so. I tell you, it won't be exciting! In the same way, as much as you stand to gain a lot by possessing this peace, it is still limited in what it can do for you.

So, having this peace will not stop the devil from attempting to carry out his work in your life; which is to kill, steal and to destroy (John 10:10). The good news, however, is that he will not succeed!

Someone asked Kenneth E. Hagin to pray that she would not have problems with the devil, and he immediately replied that it meant she would die and go to heaven. As long as you and I are on the earth, problems will always come. What we need do is to learn to be at peace even in the midst of the problems or challenges. So, having this peace will not stop the devil from attempting to carry out his work in your life; which is to kill, steal and to destroy (John 10:10). The good news, however, is that he will not succeed!

This peace will not do the following for you:

GIVE YOU LIFE WITHOUT TROUBLES

How will you know that you have this peace if troubles don't come to test it? As long as you are still in this world filled with wickedness, challenges will always come. Actually, you don't even need to do anything wrong before the enemy strikes. But this peace will keep you through the period of the challenge and bring you out as a victor and not a victim.

Jesus assures us of peace only in Him. Outside Christ, all you have is loads of challenges (John 16:33). Even Jesus Christ had His fair share of troubles when He was here on earth; but God's peace sustained Him through them all.

Isaac was a man of peace. He kept digging up new wells as his

neighbours were fighting him over them and filling them up (Genesis 26:18-22). The peace he enjoyed sustained him until his enemies had no choice but to give up. Your enemies will also give up on you as you embrace this peace.

CHANGE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

How we wish everyone around us will be nice, loving and very accommodating, leaving you to enjoy your peace. Well, not in this world governed by the enemy. Some people's only work is to look for other people's trouble. They are never happy when everyone is happy.

If some people are troubling you, having this peace won't change them; but it will change your attitude and response to their attitude, words and actions. Their desired negative effects on you will not be fulfilled. They may stop disturbing you after a while, but until they accept what you have, they will not change.

Joseph enjoyed this peace, but that didn't stop the people around him from oppressing him. For instance, his brothers kept planning on how to eliminate him until they finally sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:18-36), and Potiphar's wife never ceased molesting him until she got him thrown into prison (Genesis 39:7-20).

Joseph, however, never allowed their actions to rob him of his peace; instead, their actions indirectly took him to the throne. May this peace

get you to your throne despite your enemies!

DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO

Being a person of peace doesn't make you a lazy person, but a tireless worker instead. God is a hard worker, and His children should not be anything less. This peace will only help you to achieve all-round success when you do what you are supposed to do.

Surely, you won't acquire this peace and maintain it by doing nothing. This peace will not over-rule the laws of seed time and harvest, hard work and diligence. But it will empower you to deliver maximally and successfully.

Moses enjoyed this peace and consistently worked towards maintaining peace between God and the children of Israel (Exodus 32:11-14). He wouldn't have succeeded in bringing them out of Egypt if he hadn't obeyed all God's instructions. He was a man of both words and actions.

One thing is sure though, possessing this peace will help you to cheer up like Jesus commanded us to (John 16:33), and to enjoy a life and peace that money cannot buy.

CHAPTER TWO

THE SOURCE OF THIS PEACE

The Source Of This Peace

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:33

No one can give what he does not have. So also the giver of this peace I am talking about must have it in abundance, enough to distribute. **God Almighty** is the source of this peace. His peace is unlimited and is available for as many as desire it.

God Almighty is the source of this peace. His peace is unlimited and is available for as many as desire it.

Trouble is not from God; rather, He desires that we enjoy all-round peace. When God created the earth, everything was very good and peaceful. Adam could move about among animals, including wild ones, and not be afraid. God also visited Adam daily in the cool of the day; there was peace all around (Genesis 1 & 2).

You can only find peace in the presence of God. The Bible tells us that in the presence of God is fullness of joy, and at His right hand, there are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11). If you abide in God's presence, you'll dwell in His peace.

People may claim they enjoy peace from other beings or things, but one thing is certain, whatever peace they have is not the kind of peace I am talking about here. Their kind of peace usually ends up having all manner of negative strings and conditions attached.

For instance, a time came when Nahash the Ammonite encamped against Jabesh Gilead in 1 Samuel 11. The men of Jabesh, desiring peace, asked that a covenant be made with them, that they would serve Nahash. The condition for peace given to them was that Nahash would pluck out all their right eyes! If God hadn't intervened on their behalf through Saul they probably would have consented to that "peace".

Also, since men are subject to change, peace given by men is almost always temporal. And if it is from the enemy the devil, you are sure to lose out at the end, because he doesn't do anything in anyone's interest. When the devil gives one thing, be sure it is so he will get ten in exchange for that one he gave.

On the other hand, however, God gives His peace with your best interest in mind; for His thoughts for you are not of evil, but of peace, to give

you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

God made provisions for His children to enjoy peace in the midst of whatever chaos maybe going on in the world around them. This is what differentiates those that serve God from those that do not. There is peace for those who will turn to God. He gives hope to the hopeless and keeps those walking through the midst of a burning fiery furnace cool.

This provision of peace is available to all, but accessible only to those who will humbly submit to the Lordship of Jesus. Make a decision to be one of them today if you are not one yet.

There can't be peace anywhere God is absent; only confusion and strife. Confusion disappears as soon as He steps in, and peace automatically appears (1 Corinthians 14:33). So, if you find yourself in an environment full of chaos, introduce God to the situation; if He is accepted, peace will reign there.

God is the author of everlasting peace. When Jesus' disciples were in the midst of a storm, they had no solution. But immediately God the Son entered the boat the storm ceased and they had peace (Mark 6:45-51). Therefore, if there be any storm raging against you now, don't hesitate to invite God into the situation, and you will have peace.

Christ's Inheritance To Believers

Do you know the worth of your inheritance from the Lord? Most people like to leave good inheritances to their loved ones at their death. Likewise, Christ also left us a very important inheritance from the Father.

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

This same peace is what Christ bequeathed to us for an inheritance, so that we can unseat the devils around us and enjoy the blessings of our redemption.

Christ left us His peace before He departed this earth. This was the peace that enabled Him sleep soundly in the boat even when the storm was raging (Mark 4:36-41), walk on water in spite of the contrary wind (Matthew 14:25-33), and remain calm when the soldiers came to arrest Him in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:47-56). He also manifested this peace at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:38-44) and many other instances in scriptures.

Christ's peace (His inheritance to us) is what you need to go through the storms of life without being perturbed or caving under. He is the Prince of peace, and in Him alone will you have peace. Jesus said in this world you will have tribulation, but assures us thus: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

With this peace, when others are saying there is a casting down, you will be saying there is a lifting up. When Jesus was going through persecution which ultimate ended in His crucifixion, the Pharisees were rejoicing that His end was coming. But Christ was calm and peaceful because He knew it was going to end in victory for Him. So when the chief priests and elders accused Him before Pilate and was questioned by Pilate, He did not answer a word. He had so much peace that the governor marvelled greatly (Matthew 27:12-14).

This same peace is what Christ bequeathed to us for an inheritance, so

that we can unseat the devils around us and enjoy the blessings of our redemption. He gave us this peace from the abundance that He had, for no one can give what he does not have.

Characteristics Of This Inheritance

The scriptures in John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7 clearly describes the main characteristics of this peace that Christ left for His people.

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD'S KIND OF PEACE

The world's kind of peace is subject to good situations or outcomes, and so subject to change. When the going is good, you will have peace, but when the going is bad, peace disappears.

But this is not the case with the peace Christ gives. With His peace, you are at rest come rain or sunshine, whether things are good or bad. This is

what makes a Christian believer an overcomer, because all things work together for his good (Romans 8:28). The peace of God a believer enjoys is what enables him/her to keep smiling and walk head and shoulder high, even though fire may be burning on the mountain.

SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING

The peace of God is beyond human reasoning and understanding. It can't be explained in anyway. It is purely the finger of God and so can't be contaminated or duplicated. You can only receive it by grace through Christ; it is your inheritance as a child of God.

When Jesus awoke from sleep and commanded the wind to be still, His disciples couldn't understand Him, His state of peace, nor the authority with which He commanded the wind and the sea (Mark 4:36-41). In like manner, you don't need to understand His peace; simply receive it by faith and enjoy.

GUARDS YOUR HEART AND MIND

Proverbs 4:23 tells us that because the issues of life come from the heart, the heart should be guarded with all diligence. Paul then goes further to say in Philippians 4:7 that what we need is the peace of God to guard our hearts and minds.

The mind is the seat of wisdom. If wrong counsel penetrates an

unguarded mind, it can corrupt one's decisions and ultimately actions. As we all know, wrong words and actions can be very costly. But with the peace of God in place, your heart and mind are guarded from unwanted elements, preserving your life and destiny from decadence.

Triggers Of This Inheritance

This peace that only Jesus Christ can give needs to be triggered off in order for one to enjoy it.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

FAITH

Faith is your access to your inheritance of peace. It has been yours from the time you gave your life to Christ; all you need do to enjoy it is to

simply reach out and receive it by faith. By faith, I mean faith in God and His Son through whom the peace comes on you, and faith in the power of the peace of God.

When you know who you are in Christ, what God says about you and what belongs to you in Christ, your faith will be built up. Faith in God is what causes the word of God to become real and tangible in your life (Hebrews 11:1).

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION

The scriptures tell us to ask so that we may receive (Matthew 7:7-8). Therefore, ask for your inheritance of peace in Christ in prayer, and you will receive it. Also, you are in tune with the Prince of peace (Jesus) in prayer and supplication; and so His peace will definitely rub off on you.

Hannah went into the tabernacle to pray with a sorrowful spirit, asking for a child, but returned with a countenance that was no more sad (1 Samuel 1:9-18). What caused the change? Eli had said to her, “Go in peace,” and the peace of God was imparted upon her immediately.

THANKSGIVING

A heart of gratitude unto God is an ever peaceful heart. It says, “God I believe You and Your word, and I believe that everything will work out for me for good, no matter what the situation is saying presently.”

Thanksgiving acknowledges what God has done and anticipates better things ahead. This causes peace to flood one's heart.

King David was a man given to thanksgiving; no wonder he was safe and unharmed in spite of all the wars he fought. The peace he enjoyed from God through gratitude delivered him from them all (Psalm 92; 23:2 & 4).

Hindrances To Its Manifestation

As much as this peace is yours by inheritance, certain things can hinder its manifestation in your life. You need to watch out for them, so you can avoid them.

ANXIETY

This is a sign of a lack of faith in God; and when there is no faith, peace will not be available. Anxiety says to God, "I don't know what You are doing and don't trust You to handle this issue well." Anxiety blocks your access to God's voice, and so you can't hear His counsel which always brings peace.

Christ commanded us not to allow our hearts to be troubled because He has given us His peace (John 14:27). An anxious and troubled mind can't experience God's peace, because anxiety and peace can't co-exist in you. Therefore, choose peace and do away with anxiety. Trust in the

Lord with all your heart; don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path (Proverbs 3:5-6).

FEAR

Another hindrance to peace is fear; it is the opposite of faith. Faith attracts God and all that He offers, whereas fear attracts the devil and all that he offers. Fear will hinder you from enjoying your inheritance of peace if you harbour it.

Jesus said you should not let your heart be afraid; His peace is available for you. Fear has torment (1 John 4:18); it opens the door to the enemy, allowing him to steal from you. But the peace of God empowers you to overcome whatever challenges you may be confronted with.

LACK OF THE WORD OF GOD

One's faith is built up by a constant hearing of the word of God (Romans 10:17). If faith triggers peace, then a lack of the word of God in a man will hinder his access to this great treasure and inheritance from the Lord. Knowing from studying God's word that He guarantees victory to those who put their trust in Him when confronted with challenges and situation will surely give you peace of mind.

When you believe that the scriptures is God's words to you (1

Thessalonians 2:13), the peace of God will be imparted in you. The Bible tells us that whatsoever things were written in the scriptures were for our learning; that through patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4). Not having enough knowledge of the word of God concerning an issue will, therefore, hinder the peace of God from manifesting in you when challenged.

Jesus Christ knew that if we are to operate and overcome in this world with smiles, we would need His peace. That was why He left His peace for as many as would receive Him; so that we too can overcome even as He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

CHAPTER THREE

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NO PEACE

The Root Cause Of Lack Of Peace

“Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?””

Matthew 14:29-31 (NLT, emphasis mine)

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

Psalm 23:1-2 (NLT)

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33(KJV)

Peace has eluded many today. In their search of this elusive peace, some have done all manner of things; but all to no avail. Many seeming solutions lasted just for a fleeting moment.

Some people actually think that having more money would bring them peace, while others think they would have peace if the person troubling them goes away or dies. Of course, many have since discovered this to be untrue.

You need to come to terms with the fact that your lack of peace is not as a result of that challenge confronting you. You can't find lasting peace until you identify the root cause of your lack of it.

Once the root cause of a problem is discovered, the problem is half solved. While there are many intermediary causes of lack of peace, the root cause is a **loss of focus on Jesus. If you are not a believer in Jesus, then the lack of peace is first as a result of a lack of relationship with Jesus Christ. Until you have a relationship with Christ you cannot enjoy the peace He has to offer.**

Once the root cause of a problem is discovered, the problem is half solved. While there are many intermediary causes of lack of peace, the root cause is a **loss of focus on Jesus.**

Peace will automatically elude you the moment you cease to look up to Jesus (the Prince of peace) for anything. When your focus shifts from

Jesus, you have switched on to carnality; and fear, anxiety and a troubled mind are what will result. For instance, when Peter was walking on the sea at Jesus' invitation he was focused on Jesus. But when he turned his attention to the boisterous wind, fear crept in, and he began to sink (Matthew 14:22-33).

Such things as ignorance, disobedience, greed, covetousness, sin, etc. can rob one of peace. A careful analysis of all the above will further reveal the core of the problem: a departure from God.

Even as a Christian, peace will elude you whenever you take your focus off of God, and instead focus on the problem, your abilities or inabilities, negative news or man. The Prince of peace cannot share the same boat with doubt, fear, and trust in self or another man. But when your focus is on Jesus, you will enjoy peace, no matter how boisterous the storm of life may be.

Peter had peace until he shifted his focus from Jesus to the strong wind and waves. Jesus, identifying the problem, said to him, "Why did you doubt?" On the other hand, in Psalm 23:1-2, David acknowledged that when the Lord is his shepherd, he enjoys peace: God makes him to lie down in green pastures (prosperity) and leads him besides still waters (peace). All these because his focus is on the Shepherd.

When you are focussed upon Jesus or place your trust in Him, you

automatically enjoy peace because genuine and lasting peace can only be found in Christ, the Prince of peace (John 16:33). The storms of life may be raging, but you will not be perturbed, because you know that He who overcame the world is in you and is your Shepherd.

So, as a Christian, any time you sense a lack of peace of mind within you, know that you have shifted your focus from Jesus and His word. The solution? Quickly return to Him, and you will be at peace again.

For instance, if you are lacking peace in your marriage, look inwards, and you will discover that you have taken your focus off Jesus and His terms of the marriage covenant: unconditional love and submission. Also, if you are anxious and fearful, the root cause is that you have ceased to trust in Jesus and in His ability to take care of you and that situation troubling you.

For those who have not yet made peace with God by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, peace will be far from you until you take that first step. Inviting the Prince of peace into your life is the first step towards enjoying His heritage of peace. Make that decision today, and sign up for everlasting peace even in the midst of the storms of life.

Consequences Of A Lack Of Peace

I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart... My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.

Psalm 38:8, 10

How do you know when you lack the peace of God? What should you avoid if you are to keep enjoying God's peace? Note that the peace of the Lord acts as a check and balance for the believer. You lose it when you are headed in the wrong direction, but have it when you are on the right path, even when the evidences before you say otherwise. This peace is a sign of a glorious, fruitful and successful life.

A believer opens him/herself up for the enemy's attack whenever peace is lost. The enemy (the devil) will immediately attack your source of strength: your prayer life and your study of God's word.

Let us now discuss some of the consequences of the absence of peace.

Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.

Daniel 2:1

In the day you will make your plant to grow, and in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; but the harvest will be a heap of ruins in the day of grief and desperate sorrow.

Isaiah 17:11

It is important that you quickly identify the consequences of the lack of God's peace in your life. This is because dealing with them promptly will prevent them from degenerating and having more destructive consequences. God wants you to be free of these manifestations in your life.

Some of these consequences begin inwardly, and would have eaten up the victim inside before manifesting outwardly. That's the reason they must be identified and dealt with promptly. They include spiritual, emotional, mental and physical/behavioral afflictions.

SPIRITUAL AFFLICTION

A believer opens him/herself up for the enemy's attack whenever peace is lost. The enemy (the devil) will immediately attack your source of

strength: your prayer life and your study of God's word. When you pray and study the word less often, you lose contact with your helper and the wisdom of God. You are then prone to becoming more carnally minded than spiritually minded.

Lack of spirituality will take you further away from your solution; causing you to make poor or wrong decisions and choices. It is wisdom, therefore, to hold on tightly to God when faced with a challenge, because He is your way out and the One to help you to bounce back. Letting go of God at this time is to plunge yourself further into the deep pit.

Spiritual weakness opens the door for more afflictions from the enemy. But when your spirit is aglow from being well fed with the word of God, and your communication line with Him is open, that problem or challenge will be a quick walk-over for you.

EMOTIONAL AFFLICTION

Emotional breakdowns could be either mild or severe. Whichever it may be, having one is not healthy for you. If not checked immediately, it may deteriorate into a mental or physical affliction. Let me identify some problems that can result from a lack of peace.

Anxiety

Anxiety is the number one proof and result of a lack of peace. It is a state of being uneasy, apprehensive or worried about what may happen. It is a concern (usually unnecessary) about a possible future event. As soon as you start feeling anxious or apprehensive, I advise that you stop and identify the root cause, so you can deal with it immediately. That will stop it from progressing any further.

Evidently, anxiety is an expression of a lack of faith in God. It says that your challenge is not only beyond you, but also beyond God. A lack of confidence in God's ability to help you, protect or deliver you will make you insecure, further aggravating your anxiety. You may express your anxiety by being hot or quick-tempered towards others.

Eating Disorder

Anxiety might degenerate to an eating disorder if not controlled. Not knowing how to handle the anxiety built up within them, some people resort to eating uncontrollably, while some others simply lose appetite. Eating disorders eventually lead to health challenges; and all these simply because of a loss of God's peace. That is why it is very important to seek and keep that peace.

Instability

Anxiety and a lack of peace can cause instability in a person. You may find yourself doing one thing now and an entirely different thing the

next minute. One minute you are happy and the next minute you are sad; one minute you are rational and the next you are irrational. You are in a state of confusion. One might become suicidal if this trend is not checked immediately.

Prolonged Sorrow

This can also occur when peace is lacking. Prolonged sorrow saps one of energy and hinders from actively forging ahead to live a happy and successful life. If not stopped, it can lead to depression.

Hopelessness is not of God; for where there is life there is hope (Ecclesiastes 9:4). Lack of peace triggers lowliness of the spirit. Depression is a thief of your future and destiny. It makes you falsely believe that there is no hope. But peace of mind gives hope, as you are able to see the great future God has mapped out for you, and joyfully look forward to actualizing it.

Only God's peace can help you overcome sorrow of heart.

Unhealthy Relationships

Not being able to control their troubled minds, some tend to vent their problems on others. They become unforgiving and are always looking for faults in others; nothing other people do please them. This will definitely lead to unhealthy relationships, as they become bossy,

unbearable and unpleasant to be with.

With peace lacking, wisdom to relate well with others will also be lacking. You need to first be at peace within you before you can live at peace with others.

Cain lost his peace when his sacrifice was rejected but Abel's was accepted (Genesis 4). As a result, he became emotionally stressed. Rather than make amends by offering a more acceptable sacrifice, he chose instead to vent his anger on his brother and ended up killing him. God detected that he was going to do something terrible if he didn't control his anger and warned him about it, but he didn't listen.

Inner peace engenders peaceful relationships. You are a true child of God if you are a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9), for there is liberty wherever the Spirit of God is (2 Corinthians 3:17).

MENTAL AFFLICTION

Mental affliction occurs after your emotions have been oppressed and you are weak spiritually. Your thought life will be so disturbed and deranged that you will start experiencing the following:

Torments

The Bible tells us that fear has torment (1 John 4:18). Fear is the opposite of faith; so when you lose your faith in God, fear sets in – the fear of failure, sickness, poverty, rejection, fear of the unknown, etc. All these cause torment.

King Saul was a victim of torment. After he offended God and the kingship was taken from him, the Spirit of the Lord departed from him and an evil spirit tormented him instead (1 Samuel 16:14-23). He lost his peace when the Spirit of the Lord left him; he became a troubled soul, who needed to be calmed down whenever he was tormented.

Temporary relief and comfort only came for King Saul after David played the harp to him. It's worth noting here that he was only soothed after music from the Lord, played by David, who possessed the peace and Spirit of the Lord, played the harp to him.

Absent-Mindedness

Becoming absent-minded is another effect of mental affliction. Dwelling on the problem takes your mind off other more important matters, including the solution to the problem. Your mind is so focused on the challenge that there is no room for any other thing. In fact, it gets so bad that you even become oblivious to your surroundings and things happening around you.

You may even sometimes start to do some strange things that you would

normally not do, including laugh hysterically in public, make a loud disturbing shout, throw things around, including valuable things, or even throw yourself against hard surfaces.

When Rachel saw that she bore no children for Jacob, she became envious of her sister Leah, who was able to bear sons for him. She was so consumed with envy that one day she lashed out at Jacob: “Give me children, or else I die,” she said to him. Her outburst surprised Jacob, who quickly reminded her that he was not in the place of God, who gives children (Genesis 30:1-2).

She was so mentally afflicted by the thoughts of barrenness that she took the next irrational step – she gave her maid, Bilhah, to her husband, to have children with her husband on her behalf!

Mental Illness

Losing one’s peace of mind can lead to mental illness, affecting the way one thinks, feels, behaves and/or relate to people and one’s environment. It gets so bad that before long, one will find oneself unable to cope with life’s daily routine and demands.

Even though mental illnesses may be medically diagnosed and attempts made to treat it, its root cause is the absence of the Prince of peace in one’s life. Being ignorant of God’s word and His ways further worsens an already bad situation. A person’s thoughts, words and actions are

usually patterned after what you fill your heart with. It is difficult to be mentally oppressed or afflicted when your heart is full of the Holy Spirit and God's word.

Jesus, the Prince of peace, went about healing all manner of sicknesses and diseases, including mental afflictions. Luke 8:27-36 gives a detailed account of the mentally ill man Jesus healed. The Bible describes him as being demon possessed. When he encountered Christ, the Prince of peace, he was healed and restored to his right mind. The Amplified translation says in Luke 8:36 that he was restored to health. That means the presence of the peace of God cures mental illnesses, whereas its absence can trigger it.

PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOURAL AFFLICTION

This is the outward manifestation of the absence of peace, and is easily recognized by others. It is the aftermath of spiritual, emotional and mental affliction, whose visible signs include the following:

Sleepless Nights

Sleep is always far from a troubled mind. A mind-boggling issue can keep a person tossing and turning on the bed all night long. Some might even take some sleeping medication to help them sleep and still not find sleep. The best solution is to identify the root cause of the sleeplessness and resolve it immediately.

King Nebuchadnezzar had sleepless nights after he had a very troubling dream which he didn't understand. He was smart to look for the answer to what was troubling him immediately, so he could get his peace and sleep back (Daniel 2:1-47).

Irritation

A troubled mind and soul is easily irritated. Any little thing, words or actions of people irritates and upsets him very quickly. This condition will continue until the root cause of the problem is dealt with. That person is desperately in need of the peace only God can give.

Eating Disorder

This is another physical sign that the peace of God is absent. People seeing you with abnormal or disturbed eating habits can sense that something is troubling you. Eating disorders do lead to other problems and so should be checked immediately.

Suicide

A peaceful mind will never think of suicide as an option or escape route from challenges. But a troubled mind is the devil's workshop, and so is vulnerable to such suicidal thoughts. Don't fall prey to the devil's mission of stealing, killing and destroying people's lives and destinies;

go in search of this peace of inestimable value.

Immorality

Some people resort to immorality as a means of shielding themselves from their problems or in their search for answers and solutions. There is no joy or peace to be gained from immorality. It never solves any problem nor gives answers; it rather compounds the situation by creating other problems, plus it keeps you further away from peace.

Drunkenness

Alcohol can't permanently heal a troubled mind or drown the problems before you. They will still be waiting when you come out of your alcohol-induced stupor (if you ever come out of it). Instead, you will only succeed in adding health complications to the already complicated situation. A drunk is void of the wisdom or ability to take sensible or reasonable steps.

Strife

Strife is what results when there is no peace between two or more people, and it is not checked and quickly resolved. An individual with a troubled mind will also have inner strife within him/herself. What's more, if you are not at peace with yourself you can never be at peace with others. As is to be expected, all manner of evil practices and

occurrences occur where strife is found.

Weakness

Physical strength fails a man when the mind is troubled. The energy and enthusiasm to achieve one's goals are sapped, as well as self-motivation. Soon, hours drag into days, with nothing tangible achieved. This is a state that should be avoided by all means.

Failure

Ultimately, if something is not done, the absence of God's peace in a man's life will lead to an unproductive life or failure. This is because you will not be coordinated enough to achieve any meaningful thing; your harvest will become a heap of ruins

The lack of the peace of God has grave negative effects and so should be consciously avoided. Therefore, keep, protect and guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23). Let nothing steal your joy and peace of mind, because you don't want to ever experience the resultant effect.

CHAPTER FOUR

HOW TO ACQUIRE THIS PEACE

Who Is Responsible For Securing This Peace For You?

Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18 (NLT)

Peace is an important and priceless virtue that everybody should strive to have, but which, unfortunately, is lacking in the world today. While it is available for all, ignorance of how to get it has been the reason many lack it. The big question is, “who is responsible for securing peace in your life?”

Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 34:14

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

It is your personal responsibility to go after peace and to secure it in your life. You are to seek peace and pursue it. You are the one to ensure that you have peace of mind, that you live in peace with everyone as much as you can. Paul admonishes you in Romans 12:18, **to do all that you can** to live in peace with everyone. God perfects your peace when you do your own part of obeying His instructions.

God will keep you in perfect peace when YOU keep your mind steadfastly on Him, because it shows that you trust Him. God never fails or disappoints anyone who puts his whole trust in Him.

God will keep you in perfect peace when
YOU keep your mind steadfastly on Him,
because it shows that you trust Him.

Many who lack peace would rather blame others for their lack of it rather than doing what it takes to acquire it. Though their lives are falling apart and crumbling before them they still will not accept the responsibility of going after and securing this all-important peace. Relationships falling apart, failing health, stagnant businesses and careers, yet they are looking for someone else to blame for their pathetic situation and misfortune.

The consequences of lack of peace are very grievous and devastating; a

lack of peace makes life very unbearable. But you can change all that by accepting responsibility for seeking and securing the peace of God that money can't buy.

Gaining the peace of God is a guarantee for all-round rest. But it is your personal responsibility to pursue it, as no one will or can do it for you; they too are looking to secure it. Jesus has fully paid the price for you to enjoy His peace: He bequeathed it to every believer. In addition, God has also released His peace; but you have to reach out in faith and receive what has been freely given to you!

It is not enough to desire peace or admire it in others. If you desire it, then go for it and stop wishing to have it! It is possible for you too to enjoy that peace you so desire. No matter how forceful the storms against you may be, you can soar above them. The peace of God guarantees victory over every storm. But the choice is yours. Since the time of John the Baptist, we are told that the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and only the violent can take it by force (Matthew 11:12). So, take your peace by force!

No man, thing or situation is worth losing your peace over; so don't allow anything trouble your heart. Remember that when you lose your peace you are the one that suffers. The peace of God is what sustains you in times of trials and tribulations, so you can't afford to let go of it.

Peace is your force of stability. To have peace is to have hope; it is to be at rest and to have absolute trust in God. You are an overcomer over the storms of life if you possess the peace of the Lord. Therefore, go for it; for it is your personal responsibility to secure peace in your life.

Accessing The Peace Of God

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Isaiah 9:6 tells us who the “I” in John 14:27 is referring to.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and giver of the peace of God, which passes all understanding. Jesus is the only access to God's peace.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and the giver of the peace of God, which passes all understanding. Jesus is the only access to God's peace; He is the way to life-long peace. Receiving Jesus as your personal Lord

and Saviour gives you access to His peace; and is freely available to all, including you.

God's peace flows into you the moment you receive Jesus into your heart and life. The Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit that you are His child (Romans 8:16). You receive the Spirit of adoption that enables you to call God, "Abba Father". Whereas God is God to everyone, He is Father to only those who accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

With Jesus being your Lord and Saviour, you have an assurance that your sins are forgiven and that they are forever blotted out, never to be revisited or remembered (Acts 3:19; Isaiah 43:25). God now sees you righteous, as you have now been made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). You become a totally new creation, with old things passed away and all things becoming new.

In addition, you are released from the fear of death, a tool the devil has used in subjecting people to bondage all their lives (Hebrews 2:14-15). You will no longer fear death because you now know you have been delivered from spiritual death, and that physical death only means being home with the Father in heaven. This knowledge enables you to obey and trust God, in defiance of the devil.

Your knowledge of the price Jesus paid for our peace as I have stated

above will automatically give you peace of mind. You are now free from all oppressions of the devil! Who the Lord sets free is free indeed (John 8:36)! No wonder you are at peace.

As you grow and continue to learn about Jesus, you learn how to enjoy and rest in His peace. One of the commands Jesus gave us was that we should learn of Him, so we can find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:29). As you study the word of God, the Holy Spirit further reveals to you what your inheritances are in Christ and how to access them.

You get to know your authority as a believer and how to exercise it. You will no longer fear what man or the devil can do to you, because you know that the Lord is your helper, and He will help you overcome (Hebrews 13:6). The peace of God envelops you because you know that the challenge before you is just for a moment; that victory is sure for you because of Jesus Christ. You are emboldened because you know you are more than a conqueror in Christ.

Zacchaeus the tax collector received this peace as soon as he received Jesus into his life (Luke 19:1-10). Even though people still regarded him as a sinner, it didn't bother him. Instead, his mind was so much at peace that he gave half of his goods to the poor and promised to restore fourfold whatever he might have falsely taken from people. In just one day his household received total salvation, including peace!

Increasing In The Peace Of God

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:2

There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.

Isaiah 57:21 (AMP)

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Do you want to live a fulfilled life? The peace of God is a catalyst for living a fulfilled life. The more of God's peace you enjoy and experience, the more your life will be fulfilling. Let's consider some ways by which you can increase the peace of the Lord in your life.

BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

Receiving Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is the first and foremost step to experiencing the peace of God in your life. Jesus is the carrier of God's peace, for He is the Prince of Peace. Therefore, you can only have the peace of the Lord when you accept Him as Lord of your life.

The kingdom of God does not consist of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). You must be born again to belong to this kingdom and experience the peace it has to offer. The jailer in Acts 16:25-34 was filled with so much joy when he received Jesus as Lord of his life. This was as a result of the peace that flooded his heart after being born again.

So get saved today if you have not yet done so. (There is a guide to being saved at the end of this book.)

STAND ON YOUR JUSTIFIED POSITION

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:1

When you give your life to Jesus, you are justified by faith. You are acquitted of all sins committed, declared righteous, and given a right

standing with God through faith. As a member of God's family it is your right to enjoy the peace that is now yours by inheritance. But you need to stand in this exalted position in Christ and take possession of what belongs to you by faith.

Face-to-face with death as a result of the great tempest on the sea, Apostle Paul had to stand on His justified position in Christ to possess God's promise of deliverance for him and those that were with him (Acts 27:13-44). He had the peace that money cannot buy in the midst of that great storm. He knew who he belonged to and served, and was sure of his right standing with Him, and so was assured of his safety.

Therefore, when the enemy comes to rob you of your peace, boldly declare your justified position to him. Say to the devil: "I am justified by faith and so peace is mine through Christ Jesus; no devil is permitted to steal it from me, no matter the situation. I have peace in Christ Jesus!"

BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

To be spiritually minded is life and peace, both now in this world and forever in that which is to come, because it is in tune with the things of

God. But a carnal mind or the mind of the flesh is an enemy of God, for it is not subject to God's laws. As a result, it automatically attracts the miseries associated with sin, including the lack of peace, and ultimately death.

The carnal mind struggles to gratify the desires of the flesh; and the flesh can never be satisfied. It is always engrossed in cravings and diligently seeking what to eat, drink or wear (Matthew 6:31-32), which distracts from following or obeying the Prince of peace. A carnal mind can't enjoy or experience peace, because it is full of worries and anxieties over the things of this world.

To live a fulfilling and peaceful life, therefore, you need to mind the things of God; you must be spiritually minded. Rather than focusing on the things of this world, focus on God and His word, and strive to obey Him. Instead of being moved by physical things, let spiritual things move you instead: matters that concern the development of the spirit man. You are more conscious of you being a spirit, having a soul and living in a body.

A spiritually minded person realises that though he/she is in this world, he/she is not of this world (John 17:11, 14). Therefore, they are not affected or influenced by the things that affect those in the world; that is, they are not affected by the cares of this world. It then becomes easy to enjoy peace of mind.

When you seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first, God who knows that you have need of these things will cause all that the carnal person is desperately seeking after (what to eat, drink and wear) and much more to be given to you freely (Matthew 6:33).

Being spiritually minded is possible by the renewing of your mind with the word of God (Romans 12:2). As you study and meditate on God's word, your mind will gradually become renewed and spiritual minded.

INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:2

You multiply this peace in your life by learning more about God and Jesus, and what they can do for you. When you have the assurance that God will take care of you and all the issues that concern you, you will experience more peace and joy within you. You will also live a fulfilling life if you know that God will be with you and help you every step of the way.

Joseph enjoyed the peace of God. He had a very interesting life, moving from a pit to slavery in Potiphar's house, and then to prison before getting to the palace. It is worth noting that in all his travails and

sojourns he never once allowed his challenges to disturb or distract him from God, the source of his peace.

Joseph knew that God was with him and that His favour was upon him (Genesis 39:2-3). His knowledge of God and His ways was what sustained him through his unpleasant journey to the throne. Even when no mortal man could see him, Joseph knew that God hated sin, so he fled from his master's wife's sinful advances on him (Genesis 39:7-12).

Joseph knew God as a very forgiving God, and so was quick to forgive his brothers for selling him into slavery. When they were afraid of him retaliating against them after their father died, Joseph reassured them that he wasn't angry with them. Instead, he saw what they did to him as God's grand design for saving them and others from the devastation of famine (Genesis 50:15-21). He knew that all things work together for good to them that love God (Romans 8:28).

BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Philippians 4:6

Anxiety is a sign that you lack the peace of God. It means you don't have absolute trust in God, thereby pushing Him away from you. Note

that **anxiety never solves any problem**; rather, it robs you of your peace and can also affect your health. An anxiety-free life, on the other hand, not only guarantees God's help and presence with you, but also allows Him to flood your life with His peace and comfort.

Rather than being anxious, commit that issue into God's hands through prayers. Remind yourself of earlier cases where He had intervened on your behalf, and thank God (loudly if possible) for them. After doing this, consciously choose not to be anxious. Whenever you are tempted to worry, shout the devil down by making bold verbal declarations that you will not be anxious over that issue.

Hagar and her son, Ishmael, wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba after the food and water Abraham gave them ran out. Fearing that Ishmael would die from hunger and thirst, she placed him under a shrub; and not wanting to see her child die, she sat a good distance from him. She was fearful for the boy's life, and so began to cry.

In her anxiety, she forgot to call for help from the God of Abraham, who had earlier visited her and promised to multiply her descendants through the son she was going to bear (Genesis 16:6-11). She forgot God's promise to her. Instead, in her hopelessness she gave in to anxiety that could not have helped her. But thank God for His mercy; He stepped in and provided for them, delivering the boy and herself from death (Genesis 21:14-21).

BE GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

A life rooted in the love of God is a life full of God. You are assured of God's presence if you are full of love for Him. His presence of course guarantees His peace as well. Your love for God eradicates fear with all its torments, and manifests His peace, leading to a fulfilled life.

To be grounded in God's love is to be grounded in His peace. God's love assures you of His protection, provision and progress; and when you are certain of these things, you will surely enjoy peace of mind.

God's peace increases in you as you learn to count the blessings of His love in your life and give Him thanks for them. When you do this, you are further assured that He who did it before and is still doing it, will surely do it again.

Paul was peaceful on his way to Rome, even when death was lurking around the corner. He knew too well whose he was and whom he served,

and was assured that God would not fail him. He was so grounded in God's unfailing love that he believed the words the angel told him, assuring the people that it would be even as God had spoken (Acts 27:22-25).

God's peace increases in you as you learn to count the blessings of His love in your life and give Him thanks for them.

DO GOOD DEEDS

“There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 57:21

Doing good deeds is another way of increasing the peace of God in your life. There is no peace for workers of wickedness. Peace is of God; and what you sow you will reap. The wicked can't sow evil and reap peace.

No wicked man does evil and goes to bed in peace, because the cries of his victims will reach God, and the just God will recompense tribulation on their behalf (2 Thessalonians 1:6). He who gives His beloved sleep (Psalm 127:2) will withhold sleep from the wicked, and instead allow troubles to come to him during the daytime.

Therefore, for you to enjoy the peace of God and live a fulfilling life, you need to do good constantly. Your good deeds will always speak for you wherever you may be and bring you peace of mind.

Remember the story of the centurion in Luke 7:2-10? The elders he sent to Jesus to plead with Him to come heal his servant spoke highly of him to Jesus. The Bible records what they said to Jesus this way:

And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, “for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

Luke 7:4-5

The centurion’s good deeds and the good recommendation from the elders moved Jesus to go and heal his dear servant that was at the point of death.

Lot’s good deeds were probably what exempted him and his family from being destroyed along with the people and cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when God destroyed them because of their sins (Genesis 19:1-30). Second Peter 2:7-8 records that Lot was a righteous man, who was sick of the immoral lives the people of Sodom lived. No wonder God remembered him and saved him.

Cornelius, the first Gentile to receive the Holy Ghost baptism, got that

honour because of his good deeds.

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?”

So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

Acts 10:1-5

Peter came, and as he spoke to the group gathered in Cornelius’ house, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them, and they began to speak in tongues. His good deeds of being devout, prayers and alms giving were his qualifiers for this great outpouring. With the Holy Ghost comes the peace of God.

BE THANKFUL

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Psalm 100:4

A heart of gratitude will always provoke God's blessings, which includes His peace. When you thank God for the peace you enjoy, He multiplies it. Remember that you gain access to God's presence and blessings through thanksgiving.

Make thanksgiving your way of life. A grateful hearted person sees more of what God is doing than what the enemy is doing. Good news increases your peace, whereas bad news depletes whatever peace you may have.

Daniel was a man who greatly enjoyed God's peace. Despite being surrounded by envious enemies, his peace of mind was not affected. He praised God often and never took any act of God for granted (Daniel 2:20-23).

Even when a decree was made, that nobody should petition to any other god but the king, Daniel never ceased to pray and give thanks to the Almighty God as his practice was (Daniel 6:10). His peace was intact when they threw him into the lions' den, because he knew he had access to God's presence through thanksgiving. God surely came through for

him and delivered him (Daniel 6:20-23).

The bottom line is this: you cannot live a fulfilled life without the peace of God. Everlasting peace is from God; the world is incapable of giving it. Doing all that are listed above will guarantee and increase the peace of the Lord in your life. They are what will give you the peace that money cannot buy. Start today, and experience tremendous changes in your life!

How To Maintain This Peace

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3

It is one thing to acquire this peace and another to maintain it. The peace of God floods a man's heart at new birth, but it must be maintained if you are to enjoy it continuously. The following are some of ways of doing this.

BIBLE STUDY

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...

Hosea 4:6

The word of God lays out the will of God - what He loves and hates, how He operates and how to enjoy all that He has provided us, which includes peace. The Bible is the word of God; and it is only by studying it that you can know God better and know what His will is. An increase in the knowledge of God in your life means an automatic increase in His peace you will enjoy.

The Prince of Peace, Jesus, is also the word of God (John 1:1-3). Rubbing your mind with the word of God is rubbing minds with the Prince of Peace. As iron sharpens iron, so the peace of God will rub off on you as you soak your heart with the word of God. A daily dose of the word of God will keep your mind in perfect peace.

PRAYER

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

We can also gain access into God's presence through prayers. The more time you spend in God's presence the more you are able to enjoy of His peace. You can't come out of a prayer room having been soaked with His presence and still be disturbed by the challenges around you.

When the enemy wants to steal your peace, the prayer altar is a good place to go to. Jesus said you should come to Him with that burden, and He would give you rest. Go to God in thanksgiving, with the intention of leaving the burden at Jesus' feet, and return lighter than you went in. God is ever ready to honour your faith.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34

Having a right standing with God positions you to enjoy a continuous flow of the peace of God. Sin keeps you away from God's presence and by extension from the peace of God. So, keep sin far from you if you want to keep enjoying the peace of God.

When the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul because of his disobedience, an evil spirit began troubling him (1 Samuel 16:14). Either God or the devil inhabits a man at any given time. To be away from God as a result of sin, therefore, is to be at home with the devil; which means trouble and a lack of peace. Walking with God, on the other hand, is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17).

TALK PEACE

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Mark 11:23

The scripture says you will have whatever you say. It means that what

you say is very important, and should be well thought out and calculated before being spoken. Declaring peace at all times is the wisdom of God if you want to enjoy peace continually.

The more you talk peace, the more you believe and experience it. You create an atmosphere of peace around you with the words of your mouth. A scoffer by his words will cause contention, strife and abuse (Proverbs 22:10), so avoid the presence of a scoffer, so that peace can reign continually around you.

You create an atmosphere of peace around
you with the words of your mouth.

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:22

The above scripture reveals that peace is one of the fruit of the Spirit. It means that as you pray in the spirit, the Holy Spirit praying through you releases His nature or fruit in you, which includes peace. As a result, the longer you spend praying in the spirit, the more peaceful you will

become.

Praying in the spirit is a powerful tool for overcoming anxiety, depression and a sorrowful heart. We engage the Holy Spirit when we pray in the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17). You will notice that whenever you pray in the spirit for some minutes, especially after a panic attack, you immediately become calm within, and there is a flooding of your heart with the peace of God.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF NATIONS

And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

Jeremiah 29:7

Prayer changes things, so it is very important that you intercede for nations, if you are to enjoy peace in your own life. You will enjoy peace only if the nations are peaceful. There are three nations you must always pray for: your country of origin, the country you reside in, and the nation of Israel.

- You need to pray for your country of origin because you might need to go back there one day if you don't reside there. Also, a good number of your relatives live there and so need peace in the nation.
- You pray for the nation you reside in because you will be affected directly or indirectly by whatever happens in it.
- Pray for Israel because we are commanded to do so for our own prosperity (Psalm 122:6).

You are to stand in the gap for these nations against all wiles of the devil, stopping him from performing his devices through any of his forces or agents of darkness (Job 5:12). You are not to take lightly any negative thing you hear or see happening around. Stop it while it is still just a candle light fire, before it becomes a burning bush. By so doing you enthrone God as the Lord over the affairs of the nations.

PRAY FOR LEADERS

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Timothy 2: 1-2

We are commanded to pray for all men, especially those in authority. You don't need to be on the management board, ruling party or their supporter before you pray for the men in authority. Whatever decisions they make will certainly affect you, so you need to intercede for them to rule well, in the wisdom and guidance of God.

We also need to pray for the world powers, because whatever happens to them or whatever decisions they make will directly or indirectly affect us too.

Those in authority we are to pray for include the country's president, the governors, local council members, members of the legislature, and even members of the judiciary. Ask God to give them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, and that their eyes of understanding be enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-18). Always magnify God as the ultimate leader over any group, company or nation that you belong.

SOW PEACE SEEDS

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7

Sowing peace into the lives of others is another way of maintaining the peace of God in your own life. If you want to keep your peace then you must learn to sow peace seeds in others, for whatever you sow is what you will reap. No matter the response from the other party, choose to be peaceful, and before long you will reap peace.

David chose to sow peace into his relationship with King Saul even though Saul wanted to kill him. He refused to kill Saul when he had the opportunity to do so (1 Samuel 24). Not long after King Saul died on the battlefield, and the attacks from him stopped. When you sow peace God will ensure you reap peace by all means.

TRUST GOD

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3

God will keep you in perfect peace when you trust in Him. Trusting God means to throw yourself totally into His hands and mercy; and God never fails those who absolutely surrender to Him.

Trust God with all your heart, and don't try to lean on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). Trust God to do what He has personally spoken to you and those from His word. Your heart will be at peace

when you know that God is working everything out for your good.

Joseph trusted God to fulfill his dreams, despite all the challenges he faced. He was never downcast, which was why he could notice the downcast faces of Pharaoh's servants in prison. He had perfect peace throughout his ordeal, and God fulfilled his dreams and gave him the throne.

HOLY COMMUNION

He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

John 6:56-57

The communion is the body (flesh) and blood (drink) of Jesus, the Prince of peace. When we take the communion, we are taking in Christ; which means we are partaking of the peace of God. Always visualize yourself taking in the peace of God whenever you partake of the communion.

Eating and drinking the Holy Communion is eating and drinking peace: peace to your spirit, soul and body. The communion attends to any challenged part of your body and administers peace to it. It brings about an excellent spirit, mental excellence and total health.

The early disciples took the communion daily (Acts 2:46). I believe that was the source of their strength, because they were able to spread the gospel in spite of the persecutions they faced. They had peace in the midst of heavy persecutions (some even unto death) because they partook of the Prince of peace daily!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1-5

Remembering all that God has done for you keeps your heart at peace. This helps you to trust Him more, knowing that if He did those things in the past, He will yet do whatever He has promised you.

Counting your blessings helps you to face today and tomorrow with ease, to look at the mountain and command it to be leveled, knowing that God has not changed and will never change. What He did before, He is able to do again. This knowledge will quickly quieten any buying and selling in your mind and restore peace within you.

David understood this principle so well and applied it when he confronted Goliath. The whole army of Israel was afraid of Goliath because of his height that nobody dared to challenge him. But David, recounting how God had delivered him when he went after the lion and bear that came to steal the sheep under his care, was able to boldly confront Goliath.

He was not intimidated by the giant, but rather had peace of mind because he knew that God who helped him kill the bear and the lion would again help him to kill Goliath. Of course, God lived up to David's expectations, and delivered Goliath into his hands (1 Samuel 17)! God never fails.

CHAPTER FIVE

PEACE BOOSTERS

Peace boosters are things you do that will help you enjoy the peace of the Lord in your life continually. Whereas Jesus has given us His peace, it is our responsibility to make sure we first receive it, and second enjoy it. Just like in the case of salvation, it is every man's duty to do what it takes to receive it, even though it has been freely given.

But first, let me talk about those things you must avoid if you must enjoy peace; the things that will definitely cut short your peace. They are what I call the little foxes.

Beware Of The Little Foxes!

Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes.

Song of Solomon 2:15

There are little foxes that you must beware of if you want to enjoy peace continually. These foxes, when not warded off early enough, can destroy

whatever they lay their paws upon, including your peace. You must, therefore, identify them and get rid of them as soon as they start manifesting in you.

Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]

John 14:27 (AMP)

God has given you peace of mind through His Son, Jesus, but you need to diligently guard your heart, to keep away anything that may want to trouble it. We have identified the root cause of no peace as a lack of focus on Jesus, the Prince of peace. Anything that aims at taking your focus off Jesus is targeting your peace. Therefore, you must ensure that you deny these little foxes access to your heart.

Let's identify some of these peace robbers.

It is good to have money; but it becomes destructive when you love and place it before God in your life.

THE LOVE OF MONEY

For the love of money is a root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have been led astray and have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute [mental] pangs.

1 Timothy 6:10 (AMP)

It is good to have money; but it becomes destructive when you love and place it before God in your life. When you love money and owning it more than you love God, then it has become your god, and will take control of your life and run it.

Your priorities will be misplaced when you give room to money to run your life rather than God; nothing else will matter to you other than money and the continual thoughts of acquiring more of it. It will affect your relationships, making even family relationship seem unimportant, which will eventually lead to a breakup in the family.

The love of money can also ruin a man's health. Your mind will be so pre-occupied with how to make more money, to the point where you are stressed up, and then it begins to take a toll on your health. Making money the love of your life will rob you of your quiet time with God, thereby hindering your contact with the Prince of peace. Beware of the love of money!

CONTENTION

The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

Proverbs 17:14

Contention is another common little fox that robs people of their peace of mind. You cannot have strife and peace at the same time; one must give way for the other. Once contention steps in, peace is on the verge of being kicked out.

The scripture says you should stop it before quarrel starts. Quarrel will finally drive peace away if contention is allowed to take up residence in you.

CARES OF LIFE

And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?

Luke 12: 25-26

Worrying about what to eat, drink or wear, or about paying bills, etc. will rob you of your peace of mind. Being anxious has never solved any problem; instead, it's known to have further compounded issues. So why

be anxious? Yes, do whatever you can within your power to solve a problem, but be careful not to become anxious about it. Allow God to take care of that challenge for you: cast it upon Jesus (1 Peter 5:7).

FEAR

There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

1 John 4:18 (AMP)

Fear precipitates lack of peace. The fear of failure or the unknown torments the mind and slows down progress. Fear says, “God step aside, You can’t solve this problem.” Fear takes your focus off Jesus, placing it instead on the challenge before you. It troubles the heart and robs a people of their peace of mind.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Numbers 13:33

Low self-esteem troubles the heart. It affects relationships by making you feel insecure and inefficient. You need to see yourself as God sees you: you are fearfully and wonderfully made, the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath. God has made you a king and expects you to rule here on earth.

Do not allow the enemy tell you lies about yourself to steal your peace, and don't allow other people's opinions about you define who you are either. Get the true picture of who you are from God and His word. Agree with whatever God says about you, and your self-esteem will improve tremendously.

UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

Hebrews 10:35-36

Unfulfilled dreams and expectations tend to rob some of their peace of mind. It could be that people failed to meet up with your expectations of them or that your heart's desires are not met. Whatever the case may be, you should not allow unfulfilled expectations to rob you of your peace.

You have need of patience if you are to receive your heart's desires.

LACK OF SPIRITUALITY

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Not being spiritual will take away your peace. Dwelling in the flesh (carnality) removes your focus from Jesus, the Prince of peace. The Bible makes it clear that being carnal-minded is death. A carnal mind is enmity against God, and so cannot discern the ways of peace nor follow them.

WICKEDNESS

“There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 48:22

A wicked heart cannot have God's peace of mind. God has already judged the wicked and pronounced no peace to them. Wickedness is of the devil and peace is of God; they both can't co-habit. To live a peaceful life, therefore, you must depart from your wicked ways. Only

then can peace be restored back to you.

DISOBEDIENCE

Great peace have they who love Your law; nothing shall offend them or make them stumble.

Psalm 119:165 (AMP)

To love God is to obey His commands. Disobedience to God and His word is another little fox that robs you of your peace of mind. It keeps the Prince of peace far from you. Obedience distinguishes you as a child of God and qualifies you for God's blessings, which includes peace.

UNRULY BEHAVIOUR OF CHILDREN

Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.

Proverbs 29:17 (NIV)

Undisciplined children will always be sources of concern to their parents, society and the world at large. The unrest and insecurity we see in the world today can partly be attributed to the unruly behaviour of those that were not disciplined by God's words when they were young. Therefore, train up your children now, and they will give you rest in

future.

BITTERNESS

Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Hebrews 12:15

Bitterness troubles and embitters individuals, robbing them of their peace of mind. It also causes one to fall short of God's glory. When you allow bitterness to take root inside you, you have opened the door to series of actions that are detrimental to your peace and that of those around you.

Look inwards within you and see if you find any of these little foxes identified. If you do, please deal with them immediately, as they are dangerous and will definitely steal your peace of mind. Stop their activities in your life now before they wreck more havoc. It is your responsibility to do this soul-searching and to root out the foxes if found.

The Perfect Channel For Peace

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1 John 4:18

Many in our world today lack peace of mind. Anxiety and the fear of many things, including the unknown, have taken them captive. The next minute, hour, day or month can easily become a nightmare for those with troubled minds. But there is a solution for this problem: the love of God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:33

God longs to shower you with His love; He

wants your heart to leap for joy and not fear.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

In an attempt to drown their sorrows or hide from the overwhelming challenges in their lives, some with troubled minds have resorted to drug and alcohol addiction, suicide, prostitution, etc. They lack God's Fatherly love and peace, and so are insecure.

God longs to shower you with His love; He wants your heart to leap for joy and not fear. He wants to take away your fears and carry your burden, while you rest in His love. You may not believe it, but God cares very much for you. He longs to grant you a restful mind and wipe tears off your eyes.

The love of God is the perfect channel for a peaceful mind. A peaceful mind is one of the benefits you enjoy when you are enveloped in the Father's love. Fear and anxiety are totally eradicated, making joy and peace a normal way of life for you.

God is love and the author of peace. Loving God and Him loving you in

return releases in you the kind of peace the world can never offer. While you can't fully explain how God's peace operates, you can experience its full manifestation in your life.

Love is a perfect channel for peace to flow to you. You will be at peace within you even when every other thing is in disarray. This is because you are assured that God can and will take care of all your problems. Does that mean you just fold your hands and do nothing about the situation? No, it simply means your peaceful mind is in a position to receive instructions from God on how to take care of the challenge.

“How do I secure this love?” you may ask. God's love is available through Jesus Christ. When you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, the love of God is then poured out in your heart by the Holy Spirit. You then become eligible for the peace of God, which gives peace of mind.

Apostle Paul enjoyed a peaceful mind even though he went through lots of persecutions and trials. This was because Jesus was his Lord and Saviour. Apostle John also enjoyed this benefit of God's love. He was able to receive and write the whole book of Revelation while in exile.

Fear, anxiety and troubled minds are sure to come, but you can protect yourself against them by securing the love of God. This perfect channel is the answer to the chaos in our world today. Sign-up for a peaceful

mind by asking Jesus into your life now. If you have done so already, believe in God's love for you and see Him work wonders in your life.

The Place Of Prayers In Maintaining Peace

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

The role of prayers in securing and maintaining your peace cannot be over-emphasized. A life without prayers is one full of troubles, which will soon be terminated. A prayerful person knows better not to toy with his prayer time, since experience has taught him that he rules over the devil on his knees.

Prayer is a dialogue between you and God; you talk and listen to God. It is the fastest and cheapest way to conquer situations, because you are relating and communicating with the creator of the universe. Prayer gets things done quickly and in the right way, because it brings God into the situation. Solutions don't come in most cases until we involve or invite God through prayers (Matthew 7:7-8). When you pray, things happen!

In his last exhortations to the Thessalonians, Paul urged them to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He then goes on in verse 23 to

pray that the God of peace Himself would sanctify them completely. Prayer provokes the Prince of peace to perfect all that concerns you. It is a must if you are to enjoy a peaceful life.

Let's see why prayer is so vital to living a peaceful life.

Prepares Us For The Day

Prayer is a way of depositing God's character of peace into our souls. It equips us with the peace needed for the day. No challenge that comes your way will throw you off balance when you have spent some quality time in prayer with God. The peace of God rubs off on you and envelops you such that no arrow shot against you gets to you. You will find yourself smiling and at peace when things don't seem to be going as you desire. This is what the Bible describes as the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Jesus had just come from praying at the garden of Gethsemane, no wonder He was at peace when the multitude from the chief priest and elders of the people came to arrest Him (Matthew 26:36-56; John 18). On the other hand, Peter who didn't pray had no peace of mind and kept making mistakes and taking the wrong steps throughout that day.

First, he cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant, then he denied his master whom he had earlier sworn to lay down his life for (John 13:37-38). So prayer settles your mind and equips you to pursue and

conquer the businesses of the day.

Gives Answers

Peace sets in whenever you have the answer to a bugging question that's on your mind. Prayer, being a channel for receiving these answers from the "all-knowing God" is, therefore, very vital for your peace of mind. God speaks to us when we pray; which is why you shouldn't do all the talking in prayers. You need to be quiet at times, to hear the other person (this time, God) speak back to you, for you are having a conversation with Him. Don't just do all the talking and rush off to other businesses; you should wait to hear God talk back to you.

While in prayers, Peter got answers to the questions about Jewish conduct and their relationship with the Gentiles. So when he was questioned after Cornelius had received the Holy Ghost baptism, he was at peace and boldly answered them without fearing what their response would be (Acts 10-11:1-18). Many years later, he still referred to that incidence in solving a similar problem (Acts 15:7).

Instils Confidence And Faith

Faith is a sign that you are at peace over an issue. When you spend time communicating with God in prayer, you will discover that you are

gradually building your confidence in God, His word and in yourself. You develop absolute trust in God's ability to help you and to handle issues of concerns. Hebrews 10:35 tells us that our confidence carries a great recompense of reward, one of which I believe is peace. You know and believe that that troubling matter is settled forever.

Having received answers from God concerning the raging storm in prayers, Paul had peace and confidently announced to his shipmates that there would be no loss of life among them, only of the ship. He had total trust in God, that it would be just as God had told him (Acts 27:22-25). Your encounters with God in prayer will always give you confidence to face tomorrow: not just to pass through it, but to conquer and subdue it.

Your faith in God is built up when you maintain a consistent prayer life, causing you to be at peace always. You become confident that He would answer you whenever you call upon Him. That is what keeps you calm and collected when the storm of life is raging. Daniel knew this so well.

With a death sentence hanging over him, Daniel boldly asked to be given time, so he can pray to get the interpretation of the king's dream. He believed that God would reveal it to him when he prayed. He went into prayers with his three other friends, and God revealed it to him just as he expected. He confidently returned to the king with both the dream and its interpretation which God had shown him in prayers. Not only were the lives of Daniel and his friends spared, they were also promoted

(Daniel 2:1-49).

On your knees, you move mountains and
kings obey your commands.

Straightens Crooked Paths

Certain circumstances are beyond our human comprehension and ability to handle, but are no problem before God. This is another reason we need to pray. Such issues are surrendered to God in prayer, who cheaply settles them on our behalf.

So, even when you are busy working, you still need to surrender your life and affairs to God in prayers, to ensure daily victories. There are forces of darkness arrayed against us daily, whose sole duty is to steal, kill and destroy. But praise God that Jesus came to give us life in abundance (John 10:10). So, we need to commit every detail of our lives to Jesus' care; no issue should be too small to commit to Him.

People may despise you, scorn your petitions, reject your message, oppose your differing points of view, but they are powerless against your prayers. On your knees, you move mountains and kings obey your commands. This is because the heart of a king is in the hand of the Lord,

and like the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1).

It is through prayers that you engage God to make the crooked places straight for you, breaking in pieces the gates of bronze and cutting the bars of iron in sunder (Isaiah 45:2). When you are able to secure God's attention and intervention, your peace of mind is guaranteed.

Establishes Peace Around You

If you want peace in and around you then you must pray it into existence. The relevance of prayer to our enjoyment of peace is emphasized severally in the Bible. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, we are admonished to pray for kings and all that are in authority, so that we may live quiet and peaceable lives.

God rebuked all who were at ease in Zion while things were going wrong, and told them they would go into captivity as a result (Amos 6:1-7). When you choose not to pray when you see something going wrong, know that before long that seeming small thing would become big and rob you of your peace.

Women who were at ease and complacent were also rebuked in Isaiah 32:9-20. God warned them that if they didn't change they would see calamities upon calamities, troubles upon troubles. But that if they would pray and call down the Spirit of God upon them they would see

fruitfulness, justice and righteous, and then the people would dwell in peaceful habitations.

You can achieve on your knees what you can't achieve otherwise because you are not in a political, economic or social position to do so. You can achieve the peace you desire in your family, place of work and nation through prayers. Every knee bows at the mention of the name of Jesus. What you don't want, don't sit there watching it; do something about it, pray about it.

Pray from your heart, backed up with God's word and faith in Him. The quality of your prayer is what matters, not the length of time spent in prayers or the finesse of your grammar. Therefore, target to meet the Prince of peace in prayer, and His peace will stay with you all day long.

The Missing Link

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11

If you are having difficulty maintaining peace and joy within and around you, it may be because you are looking for them in the wrong places. One sure place to secure peace and joy is in your fellowship with God. Everlasting peace can only be found in the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ.

What you possess may give you temporary peace or joy, but to enjoy a ceaseless flow you need to get to the source - God.

Many think money can give them peace and joy. Some others think peace and joy can be found in power, and others yet think the answer is in getting married. For some, success in their career or business will certainly make their lives peaceful and joyful. The list of the different places and things people hope to get peace and joy from is endless.

But they have, disappointingly, discovered that having all these things still haven't brought them their much desired peace that passes all understanding and Christian joy that is full of glory. Jesus warned us well in advance where not to look for them.

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Luke 12:15

What you possess may give you temporary peace or joy, but to enjoy a ceaseless flow you need to get to the source - God. Fellowship with God is what will deliver them to you.

Now, I know you are wondering how you are to fellowship with God. It is so simple that many don't pay attention to it. To fellowship with God is to **spend time in His word and prayers**. You may say you are too busy to do so, but the truth is that you can always make out time for anything if you want to, including studying your Bible and praying. Which is better: to build a strong relationship with God when there is no crisis or to seek Him in the time of crisis? I certainly will choose the first option.

Fellowshipping with God in His word and prayer builds up your faith in

Him and His ability to do what He says He will do. People are anxious, worried and depressed because they don't know or trust that God can handle the situation confronting them. Those who know their God are always at rest no matter the challenge. This is because they are assured that their Father in heaven can never forsake nor leave them. Jesus Christ always has the answer!

So should you fold your hands and pretend the problem does not exist? No! Fellowship with God will give you the needed peace of mind as you seek His face on steps to take to solve the problem. Your mind is at rest, making it easy to hear and receive directions from God. Furthermore, the Bible is full of wisdom on how to handle all challenges of life. It may not be exact to your case, but the principles are the same.

Fellowshipping with God also builds and fills your heart with the joy of the Lord. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is nurtured as you fellowship with God in prayer. It fills you with excitement even when things are not yet as you desire them. Christian joy is not dependent on the circumstances around you. It is instead anchored on how much of God is manifested in your life. As Psalm 16:11 says, in God's presence is fullness of joy, and at His right hand will you find pleasures forevermore.

Yes, you can enjoy peace and joy in this fast and unpredictable world. Only make God your number one priority and fellowship with Him

always.

CHAPTER SIX

SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Corinthians 10:11

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is God's perfect manual given to His children, so they can be well guided through the journey of life. In it are recorded great examples for us to follow, including how to secure peace in life. Studying the life of these people will enable you to also achieve what they achieved. I have included examples from both the old and new testaments.

The Bible is God's perfect manual given to His children, so they can be well guided through the journey of life.

ABRAHAM

(As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 4:17-25

Abraham is the spiritual father of all believers in Christ. It pleased God

to test him, and now we can learn from him.

Abraham was childless for many years, because his wife, Sarah, was barren. When God called him to leave his father's house in Genesis 12, God said to him, *"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* Abraham later had an interesting conversation with God about having no heir.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

In spite of this great promise direct from God's lips to Abraham, he still had to wait for twenty-five years for Isaac. Interestingly, during this waiting period Abraham was filled with the peace of God. The Bible records that he believed God's promise to him, and so was at peace. His hope was extremely high and his faith was rock solid; he was not anxious or worried that time was going. His inner peace strengthened his hope. The Bible says concerning Abraham: "...*who, contrary to hope, in hope believed...*" Is there any wonder then that he became the father of many nations as God had promised?

His promised Isaac came after 25 years of waiting! How was he able to secure and maintain this strange order of peace in the face of this great challenge?

Was Spiritually Minded

When God asked him to leave his home, a land he knew very well, and go to one he didn't know, he instantly obeyed God and left his father's house for the yet unknown place. He didn't consider the people or things he was leaving behind. His whole mind was set on obeying God (Genesis 12:1-4).

Had Knowledge of God

Abraham knew his God well enough to the point of being fully convinced that He was able to perform what He had promised, despite the prolonged period of waiting (Romans 4:21).

Free of Anxiety

Abraham was never anxious. It didn't bother him that he and his wife were too old to have children or give birth. He just rested in God and His promises (Romans 4:19).

Did Good Deeds

In the midst of his challenge, he still found a place in his heart to help five kings and rescue his nephew, Lot, from their captors (Genesis 14:1-16).

Ever Thankful

Abraham was ever thankful and grateful to God, even as he awaited his promised heir. He was strong in faith, giving glory to God (Romans 4:20).

Was Righteous

His right standing with God (the source of peace) enabled him to maintain his peace (Romans 4:22).

Talked and Sowed Peace

When there was dispute between his herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen, Abraham talked and brokered peace between them (Genesis 13:8-12).

An Intercessor

Abraham stood in the gap, praying for God to spare Sodom from destruction. He got God to agree to spare the nation if He found ten righteous people within her (Genesis 18:16-33). Unfortunately, there were not as many righteous people in Sodom, so the city was eventually destroyed.

Abraham also prayed for Abimelech the king of Gerar, whose household God plagued for taking Sarah, Abraham's wife. God forgave the king and restored the fruitfulness of his household after Abraham prayed to God on his behalf (Genesis 20:1-17).

Trusted God

He trusted God with everything in him: spirit, soul and body. He was too sure he was in good hands and obeyed every instruction God gave him, even when it sounded wicked, humanly unrealistic or foolish (Genesis 22:1-19).

Abraham undoubtedly enjoyed the peace of God during his life time. He

was highly favoured and blessed of God; and so we are encouraged to learn from him and do likewise.

RUTH

So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”

And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”

Ruth 2:10-12

Ruth was a Moabite who married a Jew in Moab. When her mother-in-law, Naomi, decided to return to Judah after the death of her husband and two sons, she chose to return with her. Ruth's love for her mother-in-law and her God earned her the peace of God, which she enjoyed for the rest of her life. Not only that, God also honoured her by including her in the lineage of our Saviour, Jesus.

How did she secure and maintain this peace?

Spiritually Minded

Though her own family were not worshippers of God, her association with her husband's family caused her to know more of God and helped her to choose God instead of the gods of her fathers (Ruth 1:16-17).

Not Anxious

She was not anxious over her future, even when it looked so bleak after the loss of her husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law. She showed her lack of anxiety by going back with her mother-in-law to Bethlehem, a strange land, and to an uncertain future (Ruth 1:16-18). Ruth trusted in the God of her mother-in-law, the God of Israel; that He would take care of her.

Lover of God

Ruth's unconditional love for God was manifested in her love for Naomi, her mother-in-law. She loved Naomi and her God so much that nothing could stop her from going back home with her. Even back in Bethlehem, she catered to Naomi's every needs beyond all expectations. Boaz, who later married Ruth, described her love for Naomi as such: *“your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons”* (Ruth 4:15).

Doer Of Good Deeds

Ruth left everything to take care of her mother-in-law, who had lost her husband and two sons in a strange land, and was now returning home empty-handed (Ruth 2:11).

Ever Grateful

Ruth was a very appreciative person; she always appreciated every kindness shown to her by others (Ruth 2:10).

Ruth loved her mother-in-law with the love of God, obeyed all her instructions, and the faithful God who saw her heart blessed her with a family of her own. She later married Boaz, a wealthy kinsman of her late husband, who loved her and catered well for her.

PAUL

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

Acts 16:25-28

Paul and Silas were both thrown into prison for delivering a demon-possessed girl earlier in the day. The possessed girl had followed Paul about for many days, disturbing his ministrations by her spirit of divination. Her masters, seeing that their means of making money was gone, caused an uproar in the town, which led to Paul and Silas being arrested and thrown in jail (Acts 16:16-24).

Rather than being sad and dejected in jail, Paul and Silas were so filled with peace that they began to sing praises to God. Praise always steers God, so He rose up from His throne in response to their praises, causing an earthquake that shook the whole prison and set the prisoners free (Acts 16:25-26).

What was the source of Paul's peace?

He Was Born Again

After his encounter with Jesus on his way to Damascus to harass and arrest Christians, Paul became a strong believer in Christ (Acts 9:1-22). Peace comes along with salvation, because the Prince of peace comes to dwell in you. Since he was so full of Christ, he was also filled with His peace; there was, therefore, no room for sorrow, sadness and worries even in a Philippian prison.

Spiritually Minded

Paul was able to praise God in jail because he was spiritually minded; he saw beyond the chains on his legs and hands, unto the faithful God that he served, confident that the situation would turn around for his good (Romans 8:28).

In many of his letters to the Church, Paul warned against carnality.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

According to Apostle Paul, to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Any wonder then that he enjoyed so much peace? Paul suffered a lot of persecutions, but was always at peace, not allowing whatever he was going through to disturb him. He listed some of the troubles that confronted him:

...In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

These problems would have broken any other mortal man, but not Paul! The peace of God was at work in him.

Knowledge of God

Paul knew God so well that nothing could trouble him or shake his faith and trust in God. Though he persecuted the Church before he met Jesus, Paul could not have enough of God. His greatest heart's desire was:

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Philippians 3:10

Paul still yearned to know more of God! He acknowledged that he had an abundance of revelation (2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 1:11-12), yet he still desired to know more of God! He knew God so much that he wrote about half of the New Testament letters. Even Peter acknowledged Paul's depth of knowledge and revelation (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Grace and peace multiplies with the knowledge of God (2 Peter 1:2). No wonder Paul enjoyed so much peace! He knew God and was at peace to the point that he rejoiced at his approaching death:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Man of Prayers

Paul was a man of prayers. He prayed without ceasing prayed both in the spirit and in his understanding, and admonished us to do the same (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He prayed constantly for the saints as well (Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:4). Prayer is communion with God. Paul was, therefore, in constant communion with God and His peace.

JOHN

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelations 1:9-10 (KJV)

Apostle John was banished to the island of Patmos as punishment for faithfully serving God. Amazingly, rather than suffer on the island, John had a very wonderful time with God. He was so full of the peace of God that he was sensitive enough to receive the book of Revelations from the Lord, which has been a blessing and continue to bless the Church of Jesus here on earth. What was his secret?

John was a man of love; he was popularly known as the apostle of love. His letters to the Church clearly reveals how much he understood and swam in the love of God. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ so much that he was actually called the beloved of Jesus (John 13:23). He often leaned on Jesus' bosom and was one of the three in Jesus' inner circle.

Often referred to as "the disciple that Jesus loved", John walked with God. He was a man of prayers as well.

MY TESTIMONY

I have enjoyed a level of God's peace, and by the grace of God I am still growing in the depth of that peace. Like everybody else, I too have experienced my share of challenges in life; and my testimony today is that God has been very faithful to me. Let me share this particular challenge I had, during which I enjoyed the peace of God till it became a testimony.

When I told my mother I had decided to marry a full-time pastor she objected and refused to give her consent for a while. Her reason being that she didn't want to be bothered about my welfare: how we were going to put food on the table. Around us then full-time ministers were considered to be poor.

But finance was far from being a challenge in my marriage. God has really been faithful to His word, that He would supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). In fact, one day God told me that He would change my wardrobe, and He did so within a period. He upgraded my level of clothing!

The challenge I had was childlessness. Sometimes, I thanked God that my mother didn't live to see me continue counting the years from three

to twelve. But I praise God that throughout the waiting period I was filled with His peace. I was too sure I was going to have my own children that I wasn't bothered by the delay.

Many people couldn't tell that I was still expecting to have a baby. They had to stay long around me to notice that I didn't have a child around me. Once when my husband was posted to Botswana to pastor the branch of our church there, some people kept asking me when I was going to bring my children over, because there was no sign that I was childless.

What did I do to enjoy this level of peace? As a born again Christian the word of God was my only anchor. I chewed scriptures that confirmed me a fruitful woman. Some of those scriptures were:

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:28

You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.

Deuteronomy 7:14

“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

Exodus 23:25-26

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalm 127:3

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father

of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Romans 4:17-21

The story of Abraham and Sarah encouraged me greatly; I was not as old as they were, so there was hope for me. I read Christian books from various proven authors, including, *You Shall Not Be Barren*, by Dr. David Oyedepo. Finally, I resorted to praying more to God than talking to people about the issue.

My studies and prayers reassured me again and again that it was a settled case. I had such peace that sometimes I wondered whether I actually desired children like other women who were usually so depressed by it. Yes, a couple of times, whenever I left focusing on Jesus and His promises to me, I cried. But I knew that crying would never solve the problem, so I always had to go back to faith as fast as possible.

I will tell you one thing: it is horrible to be outside the faith realm when

you are childless. I had to trust God and be persuaded like Abraham, that He was able to perform what He had promised me. After all, God promised Abraham that He would have a child when he was seventy-five, but Abraham had to wait twenty-five more years before it was realised.

I was so comforted by the love God had for me and never failed to take the Holy Communion daily. I just rested in God's ability to take care of the issue. By the grace of God, I also obeyed God's word on giving tithes and offerings, as well as served Him in all the capacities I could. I wanted to make sure I didn't give the enemy reason to accuse me before God and prevent my blessing from coming to me.

“Did you seek medical help?” you may ask. Yes, I did. I went through some medical treatments and procedures, but nothing came out of them.

Then came the blessed month of January 2010, during our church's annual 21-days of prayer and fasting. God said to me, “I will remember you this year.” Every month from then on I expected God to visit me as He had said. In November He said to me again, “I will remember you this month”, and He did!

Before November, the Eli I could see, our presiding Bishop, Dr. David Oyedepo, visited our church in Botswana in October 2010. As he was leaving, he took my hand and said, “You will get it this time”, and I said,

“Amen!” He didn’t know what God had said to me in January or about the medical procedure I was going through.

Also, my husband and I declared midnight praise warfare in November 2010, which we engaged in every night. Truly, God proved Himself faithful to His word; this time I got it indeed!

The Prince of peace saw me through and gave me victory at the end. Nine months later, I gave birth to my first son without any complication throughout the pregnancy and delivery. To God alone be all the glory!

CONCLUSION

The secret of the little woman in my story at the beginning of this book was Jesus. She could sleep peacefully through the storm because she was a born again Christian; Jesus was the Lord of her life.

Challenges are bound to come: both those you have control over and those you cannot control.

Challenges are bound to come: both those you have control over and those you cannot control. People fail to enjoy inner peace during these challenges because they are looking for it in the wrong places.

There are many ideas and suggestions on how to attain and enjoy peace of mind; but they offer only temporary solutions. Jesus, the Prince of peace, is the giver of peace. Follow Jesus and all you have read from this book, and you will enjoy total peace daily, no matter the storm you are confronted with. Always remember that no matter the storm, God's love - a must-have weapon against the storms of life, delivers peace of mind.

WHAT NEXT?

Hi,

Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? If not, it is the greatest and wisest decision you can ever make; it is one you will never regret! Having Jesus as your Lord and Saviour guarantees automatic peace, joy, all-round salvation, etc. I accepted Jesus as my Lord in 1983, and I have never regretted doing so. Life is sweet with Jesus!

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

If you are not saved you are not safe!

Life is sweet with Jesus!

Make that life-transforming choice and decision now by saying the following:

Lord Jesus,

I come to you today.

I am a sinner, I cannot help myself.

Wash me with Your blood.

I believe You died for me, and rose again on the third day for my justification.

I accept You today as my personal Lord and Saviour.

Father, I thank You for saving me.

I am born again, saved, delivered and healed!

In Jesus Name.

Congratulations! If you said this prayer from the depth of your heart, you are now born again. It is that simple, but very important.

The next thing to do is to join a Bible-believing church and continue your fellowship with God.

I will like to hear from you so I can help you with any question you may have. Email me at ngozi@stepswithgod.com

You are blessed!