FIGHT FOR YOUR DESTINY

Ephesians 2:10:
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath beforehand ordained, that we should walk in them.

Claude PAYAN
Dear Reader,

This very appropriate, updated version of ‘Fighting for your Destiny’ has been reprinted and published in French in memory of a young missionary, Chuck McCall.

This reprint and publication was made possible through the generous donation of the John Cornett Memorial Fund. Mr. John Cornett, who journeyed home to be with our Lord in 2000, is a dear and wonderful friend of Galatians 2:20.

His wife, Mrs Mary Etta Cornett, is a dearest friend, who serves on the Executive Board of Galatians 2:20 Ministries, Inc. Both John and Mary Etta have known Chuck, love Chuck and appreciate his ministry in France. It is in honour of that lasting friendship and because of their desire to see the work in France continue that this generous gift was made by the John Cornett Memorial Fund.

We pray that you receive much from the Lord as you read this great book.

Mary Etta, I appreciate this generous gift so very much! May the Father bless you with His richest and best!

Love,

Sundra
ABOUT THE AUTOR

Claude PAYAN is the founder of the work “Souffle Nouveau”. Its principal objectives in this work are:
* A change of mentality at the heart of God’s people through an inspired and liberating teaching.
* To help this nation discern the times and to equip it to take an active part in the Revival.
* To spread the Gospel in all circles and come to the aid of the most underprivileged.
* With his wife Julia, Claude also exercises a musical ministry.
Do you dream to enter into the fullness of the calling on your life?
Do you sometimes make plans in your heart about the future, about that day when you shall be a blessing to others who are in need? Do you hope to become successful in the area that you are gifted, and to become known as someone who can help influence this world?

Let me encourage you. It’s normal to have dreams in your heart. You are like every other human being living on this planet. God put into the deepest parts of our being the desire to enter into what has been prepared for us.

Now there are days that you feel ready to pay the price to get there, no matter what it costs, and you feel you’ve grasped that vision, of living your life to the fullness of its divine destiny. “Wow its going to be great!” You think, you can see it already!!

Then there are days you hesitate, and you wonder if it is really possible.
You say: “Is that vision really for me, or maybe for someone else to live”. You say: “I’m only dreaming anyway”, and then you let doubt come into your mind. Have you let yourself get discouraged? Have you tried many projects but are still searching for direction in your life? You feel like you don’t know what you want sometimes. If that’s so, it’s perhaps that your motivations are confused.

Let me ask you a question, and take your time to think about it: Are your dreams and ambitions formed out of a true and sincere search for the will of God for your life?

I tell you, you will never be happy if they aren’t. You need to take the time to find the answer to that question. The Lord knows what is best for you, and he knows your heart’s desires. The answers will start becoming clear when you find peace with your identity in Him. Then he will show you how to be at the right place at the right time, doing what you are most gifted to do. You will also find that the self assurance we need to be able to hold on to the end, comes when we know where we are going. Isn’t that great!

When you catch the right vision in line with your destiny on this earth, and you add a good dose of faith in what God can do through you, then nothing and no one can stop you! It’s then you will know what satisfaction in life is. What the Lord meant when he said: “I want my children not only to have life, but to have it abundantly too” (John 10:10).

Do your dreams still correspond to the Creator’s calling on your life?
Or have they taken you down another road, and wasted your time? What was the origin of that good idea in the first place?

Sometimes we don’t realize that we have been influenced by so many things, situations and people, that we end up just living out the actions of what life has programmed us for, and not what the Lord anointed us to live.

Maybe its time you need to come back and find the original revelation that you received from the Lord for your life, and if you have never asked his advice in that area then its maybe about time you did. Do you realize that you were born with a personal mission to fulfil and it is engraved in every atom of your body, right from the beginning? Now your human life is a gift, given to you by God to live on this earth, and you only get one chance to live it down here, so you have to make the best of it. I would like to share with you some things I found out about our
motivations. How even with a sincere heart they can still sometimes get confused. Let’s sort out some hidden human thoughts that subtly affected our decisions and our ways of thinking. Where do your ambitions and dreams for your future come from anyway?

Are they really what you want? Or have you been influenced by...

1) People you admire?
2) Pressures, frustrations and failures?
3) Maybe family expectations?
4) Or subconscious revenge?
5) Or just own selfish personal ambition?

Do your dreams look, a little too much, like what someone else has already lived? Who have you chosen as an example to follow?

Has the success of someone you admire become a reason for you to want to become like them? Be careful, you can follow an example without having to try to live their life. Their life is not your life. Your path is unique. You don’t need to try to do the same exploits as so and so, just because it worked for him! Always remember: A photo copy is never as good as the original anyway.

Sometimes you have to deal with people who would just love to impose on you what they think is best for you and your future, because they think you can’t decide for yourself, or maybe they just like to impose themselves. So they tell you what to do, and try to give you no choice in the matter. They decide for you, but without taking in to consideration who you are, or what you want.

Now I am not saying that you should not listen to good advice when you can find it, it can help us think things out, but that is not the case here. What I am trying to say is that if you aren’t sure enough of yourself, who you are in Jesus, and you don’t know where you’re going. You can be sure that there will always be someone ready to decide for you. Then you risk ending up spending the rest of your life trying to keep “them happy”.

You see people cannot see what God has shown you. They can’t look into your heart and see that glorious vision of who you will be tomorrow. Because it’s spiritual and it’s personal and you only are the keeper.

Jesus told us to watch over our hearts and keep them safe, for it is through our hearts that his river of life flows. That’s why you must stay daily in touch with Him so that you won’t be shaken when others come up with a great new project for the next ten years of your life.

Now, when people want to impose their ambitions on others, that’s called manipulation. Even if it is done with good intentions, its still manipulation, and many times it can come from those we love the most: our family. I call that problem: “Great expectations”.

Now it’s normal that we hope and expect the best for our children (I have four myself), but we have to be careful that those expectations don’t become to “great a weight”, and they end up missing the calling on their lives. In that case we can end up become a stumbling block for them.

Who is expecting you to do what? Is someone in your family putting pressure on you to perform as they think you should - even a long time after you have left home? You may be still trying to live out a dream that someone else imposed on you a long time ago, and you don’t even realise it.

Has a dear relative ever tried to put on your shoulders what they, themselves, were not able to accomplish? Unfortunately parents sometimes don’t realize what they are projecting on to the next generation. Is that you?
They could be unloading on you their guilty feeling of not having been able to do it themselves. That’s terrible! They make you feel like you have to accomplish something for them that you would never have chosen to do by your own will, and as you are not sure why, but you’re confused and you do it anyway through a feeling of obligation. Well that’s no good, that’s not a right motivation. Can you see that!

Don’t fall into that trap! You are not responsible for their failures.
Don’t let others decide your future for you!
You must learn how to say “no” when you need to say “no” sometimes.

Let me go a little further on this subject. When people take upon themselves more than they can handle, It is either because they are simply unorganized or because they don’t know how to say “NO.” I know that for me both were true, until I got my priorities right, and it’s a long road.

Some people find themselves so weighed down by life and its obligations, they are so busy doing what they think is expected of them (Most of which the Lord never asked them to do in the first place) they end up spending their time running a frantic race of activism doing many good works just to please everybody instead of asking for God’s guidance.

It’s always easier to say yes to people than to say no. Isn’t it? Anyway, they end up asking themselves: “how did I ever get into all of this?” They hope that they are pleasing God even though they are taking on more than they can possibly handle. Carrying on their backs, theirs and everyone else’s burdens, they don’t know how to stop until they are completely worn out, and then they are no earthly good for anyone. I tell you they have wasted their time.

They have neglected their calling! That’s why they are always feeling guilty somewhere that it’s never enough. Their hearts are sincere. But they’ve got it all wrong. They hope the Lord is happy to see their efforts anyway, but they never seem to find the time to build up their inner being, and that calling of the Lord on their lives which should have been their priority, will never get to be first place.

It will most probably always stay in the form of a dream, never to be realized. Their motivations are confused. It’s so sad!

Are you wasting your precious life away trying to do what others think you should be doing, when it doesn’t correspond at all with who you are inside?

If you want to know what you are capable of in your life, don’t ask your boss at work, or try asking your next door neighbour. How can they know?

You have to ask the Lord, He will tell you the truth. He cannot lie. He will never ask of you something that you are not able to do, or something against your inner will, he knows your heart even better than you do yourself. It’s true he will always take you further than your human nature, but that’s ok, because you see you are a spiritual being, and that you have been, since long before you ever were a human one.

I heard a Pasteur say: “We are not just human beings living something spiritual, but we are spiritual beings who are living something human.”

I think that explains it very well.

To often we accuse this miserable life of limiting us in what we want to do, but we are the only ones responsible for the limits we set for ourselves, and by doing that we limit God’s plans for us too. It’s clear we have to learn how to dream further than our eyesight. Ask the Lord!

He has put a vision in your heart, certainly much bigger than what you think you are able do by yourself. He will certainly stretch you higher than your present imagination (Ephesians 3:20). But when he challenges you in something, it will echo in your heart because, in fact, it was
always there in you. It’s your born in divine potential, just waiting to be freed by your belief.

Is someone still conditioning your dreams? Does someone hope to hard on you? Do your dreams depend on others?

Don’t forget to look there where God has his plan for your life. It is blessed in advance. It is what your heart has always dreamed of. It’s over and above yours, or anyone else’s human imagination, but it is a dream that is possible to live if you submit yourself to the Lord (James 4:7). For you have in you everything you need to accomplish it. He promised it and that’s that!!!

Do you still want to show somebody something? Do you still feel you have to prove that you are able? I tell you, get rid of that way of thinking! It’s not the road to real success. It’s not of the Lord.

Are your dreams still depending on others? Are you waiting for someone important to recognize your talent? Don’t say you can’t live your dream if so and so won’t help you. That’s just an excuse. Your future does not depend on anyone else than you. You didn’t have to ask anyone permission to live or not, do you!!! Well you don’t need their probation to believe in the promises of the Lord either. They can believe in you or not, that doesn’t change anything. You don’t need them to get where you need to go. All you need is faith in Jesus!

It’s always easier if others believe in your vision with you, that’s always encouraging, but you can make it even if the whole world decides to be against you, if you have the Lord on your side. It is the Lord and Him only who can put your life in to order. Co-ordinate the time and the circumstance, that will make you a winner in life, but He won’t do it alone, you have to do everything you can to make it happen too, you must believe in what the Lord has shown you for your life.

You see, when we get born again, and we surrender our lives to Jesus, He then starts to reveal the fullness of his will for our lives here on this earth. We discover who we really are in him and who He really is in us. We can find an assurance in our new identity. Knowing what we want, and what we don’t want of life. That gives us the strength to go on.

It is such a fantastic adventure, and our time on earth is so short, that we don’t have time to waste with insecurity and indecision. If you are still fighting with that then really, I want to encourage you to get healing from the Lord as soon as possible, so that you can get on with the rest of your life. You have only one life to live down here. So you don’t need to let anyone live it for you. Look for your Father in heaven, search for his kingdom, and he will be your guide.

The Lord thought it over before he chose the calling he put on your life. He knew what it would cost you, and He knew what it would cost Him too.

Don’t let anyone kill your dreams, by reminding you of your past, or where you have come from, saying: “You don’t have the right to dream for that (God’s plan)! “Or saying: “You can’t do that!” etc. Tell them that they don’t have the right to talk to you that way, because you know where you’re going. You have the Lord’s plan in your life. Then you can lift your hand and point your finger towards the horizon, and show them where your future lies.

Surround yourself with those who believe in the impossible for their own lives. Know that everything is possible for those who believe Christ Jesus!

He does not look at you like the world does, but he sees your heart, and he is looking for your real motivations.

May The Lord bless you and keep you all along the way!

Julia
INTRODUCTION

We are all called to get involved with the tasks that God has prepared beforehand for each one of us (Ephesians 2:10).

The fact that our works have been prepared in advance for us by God means, in other words, that we each have A DIVINE DESTINY.

People have a tendency to think, and speak, of anything that happens to them being part of their own destiny. Whether they strike good luck or bad luck, they think “it’s my destiny”.

Well, the reality is that when our life self-destructs, is hit by bad luck, illness, poverty, etc., IT’S NOT AT ALL OUR DIVINE DESTINY WHICH IS BEING FULFILLED. It’s rather that our divine destiny isn’t being accomplished!

The devil is called in the Bible “the thief”, “the destroyer”. He predestines you to be robbed and destroyed.

God, on the other hand, is Love and predestines us to receive this Love and the expression of the blessing this implies.

Divine destiny means the same thing as what God has predestined for us.

The Bible teaches us that God has provided for humanity A PLAN = a destiny of salvation (= healing, restoring, deliverance).

God is a good God. He hasn’t destined us for bad luck but for good.

“For I know the plans that I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

What must be understood then, and this is the subject of this teaching, is that our destiny is not fulfilled simply because we have a destiny.

For the good reason that: if there is a God there is also a devil. God’s plan is that your divine destiny be carried out; the devil’s plan is to prevent this destiny from being carried out, TO ACCOMPLISH, IN ITS PLACE, HIS OWN DESTINY FOR YOU, which we know is the destruction of your dreams and you yourself in one way or another.

“Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel: My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God?” (Isaiah 40:27)

God wants to tell his people that their destiny isn’t marked out for staying hidden but to manifest itself in ones life.

My definition of living fully is in fact to live out ones destiny.

For our destiny to be fulfilled, one must therefore FIGHT FOR ONE’S DESTINY. While I was walking in the streets of Libreville in Gabon, talking about the Lord and reflecting on my own destiny, that of the people around me, that of the work the Lord entrusted me with and that of God’s people in general, this imposed on me the urgency of bringing out a book treating this subject.

I therefore striving, as soon as I got back to put together several teachings I had given on the subject of destiny in the course of our trips and seminars.

These contain various reflections, rules and principles which have helped me personally enter
into a good part of what God had in reserve for me and which always urges me, today, to go ahead to enter into the rest.

During the work of the making up into pages of this book, my wife shared this passage of Scripture with me that I felt to be confirmation to publish it:

“Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)

May this book have a prophetic dimension, may it be read by a great number of people to whom it communicates the thirst and courage to enter into their divine destiny – that’s the deep desire of my heart.
CHAPTER 1

YOUR WILL BE DONE

Jesus told us to pray to the Father in these words:

".... your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

God's will can be prevented from coming to pass. Is this really Biblical? Paul declares:

"For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again- but Satan stopped us." (I Thessalonians 2:18)

Another time he declares:

"....having been kept by the Holy Spirit from..." (Acts 16:6)

When we say that Satan has prevented us, we really mean he has stopped God's plan--that he has stopped us from entering what God has planned for us. Otherwise we would say that the Holy Spirit or God stopped us.

When we pray, "Your will be done," we allow his Will in our lives. By praying, the Lord will reveal to us his will, our God given destiny, and how to enter into that destiny.

The widespread idea that everything that happens to us is God's will is totally unscriptural. It's a form of fatalistic thinking which causes us to accept the devil's plan. When we reason in this way, we stop struggling to change the course of things. The aim of this book is to encourage us to think differently, refuse the devil's plan and STRUGGLE to fulfill God's destiny for our lives.

Even a born again man has a sense of justice in him. An injustice remains an injustice! It does not become just or righteous because we believe that God is the author of our situation. To attribute it to Him simply because we don't understand immediately why He allows it is to call him unfair! It's even a dishonor to His name rather than glorifying it.

It is normal for people of the world, as well as a Christian who has not understood the way the spiritual world works, would think that God has abandoned them. It's not in them to believe that if God is allowing something he must want it or that God has some strange plan in a sordid affair they are victims of. We cannot glorify God's name in their eyes. On the contrary, we are going to confirm to them the apparent injustice of God that Satan wants to establish in their thinking.

We cannot tell someone who has been raped that it was God's will. In that case, he/she would have reason to hate such a God! We cannot even tell that God has not done anything when He could have done something. For a God who can stop such a foul deed and does not cannot be a responsible God.

There was a story on the television about a 35 year old man whose car was sandwiched between two heavy weights. After eight months in a coma he awoke physically emaciated and
blind. His wife spent all her time taking care of him; their life was shattered. If we tell this woman that it was God's plan, it is normal that she wouldn't want to serve a God like this.

   Go tell parents who have lost their child in an accident that it was God's perfect plan...!
   We must understand that if accidents and misfortunes occur, it is because it's the devil's will which is primarily carried out here on earth, not God's!
   God asks us to pray that His Will be done but also that his name be GLORIFIED. We cannot glorify God's Name without reestablishing His goodness and justice in people's thinking. To do that, it must already be clear to us: God is righteous (just) AND GOOD!

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."  (Psalm 145:17)

   We must stop trying to find God's perfect plan in everything that happens because most things that happen on this earth are really sad and unjust. They are anything but God's Will! In a movie the Christians were going through lots of tragedies and were saying, "Why did God send this?". It is very common even among born-again Christians to believe and say, "God has done this to us." or "God sent this catastrophe." In fact, in the Middle Ages, they believed that God sent the plague.
   It is true that God will create a plan from anything that happens, to recoup the best. That does not mean that what is happening is according to God's plan. We should begin to realize that God will make a plan out of any situation that arises.
   We cannot pray "your will be done" and then think that just because something happens it is indeed God's Will. Of course not!

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's Will is."  (Ephesians 5:17)

   After praying, we are supposed to receive God's directions to help us enter His Will and do everything possible, with His help, to avoid the traps of the devil who is trying to deter us.
   If a car rushes towards us at an intersection, we are going to try and get out of the way, right? We are not going to stand still in middle of the road thinking, "I have prayed that God's Will be done. It is therefore God's wish that I be run over!" The Lord answers our prayer by allowing us to see the car in time to do all we can to get out of the way of the car. The car is sent by Satan. In praying AND ACTING, we can change the course of destiny that the adversary has planned for us into the destiny that God has for us--life not death.

GOD DESTINES US FOR LIFE

"Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their wicked ways and live?"  (Ezekiel 18:23)

   God's plan for our lives isn't uniquely for an elite few but for everyone. Paul asserted to Timothy that God:

"...wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."  (I Timothy 2:4)

   There word for salvation in Greek and Hebrew has a wide spectrum of meanings. It implies
being healed, delivered, restored, etc. One can therefore say that this verse asserts that God wishes all men to be healed, delivered, restored and so on. Everything that we would naturally expect from a good God!

Nevertheless, we must struggle or fight for our destiny; the scriptures speak often of "combat," "battles against the forces of darkness," "battles of faith," etc.

"Fight the good fight of faith." (I Timothy 6:12)

TO THE INJUSTICE!

Once during a University Bible Study in the United States a young man went berserk and shot and killed three young people!

Was this God's Will or the Devil's?

A pastor friend faced a dilemma recently. A young lady in his church had tried to become pregnant many times; people in the church were praying and eventually she was able to become pregnant but miscarried. During this time, my friend learned of a young girl who was seduced by a young boy and became pregnant.

Here we have one person who desperately wants a baby but lost it, while another who is too young and probably shouldn't have a baby yet has become pregnant. Is that the FAIR Will of God?

Another friend of mine is a good Christian woman who has been waiting for years to marry a Godly man. Her son suffers from a lack of male influence to the point that he has enormous problems in school and requires a special class. He is physically normal, but the doctors say his problem is purely emotional.

This sister is serious; she loves God and is faithful. Why doesn't God provide a Godly man for her and her son, while lots of people even in the church, treat their spouses poorly?

Many of us reading these lines may be thinking, "we have cases like this in our church" or "I am myself in this situation." Yet, we don't dare speak the word injustice for fear of offending God.

Well, we can not only speak the word injustice, but we can shout it out as loudly as possible! God will not be offended because he is not the author of these situations, but the devil.

LET THE DAVIDS STAND UP!

In looking around us, how many people seem confronted with situations that continue and don't resolve themselves although many of these people love God with all their hearts and only wish to see God's promises eventually be fulfilled in their lives.

These situations are comparable to periods when the Hebrews buckled under the yoke of their enemies until God raised up men, judges, etc. to set them free.

When the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt, Moses came to find Pharaoh, and Pharaoh immediately increased the burdens of the Israelites. Certain situations make us think of these moments when Goliath advanced every day to defy the Hebrew army and no one dared to move--and EVERYTHING WAS IMMOBILIZED-- until David appeared.

The Davids, the judges, the Moses, must stand, liberators of their people, to impose God's Will here on earth. The establish the law of the Spirit of Life makes us victorious over the law of sin and death.
Jesus said HE HAS GIVEN US the authority over the forces of darkness. To what end?
To repel these forces of darkness and their works!
To establish the kingdom and the reign of God, for God's kingdom is peace, joy, and JUSTICE. God's kingdom repels the darkness.

"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."  (Matthew 12:28)

There is an iron arm between the devil and us. IT'S UP TO US TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF THINGS and to establish God's Will be done on this earth!

THEY STRUGGLED FOR THEIR DESTINY

The Bible shows us that all the heroes of faith had to struggle to accomplish their destiny. David was anointed to be the King of Israel, but there were numerous occasions for him to lose sight of this destiny. He had to struggle and persevere to become King.

THE FACT THAT HE HAD A CALL OF GOD ON HIS LIFE DID NOT MEAN THAT THE CALLING WOULD NECESSARILY BE ACCOMPLISHED!

Moses struggled and persevered with Pharaoh for his destiny as LIBERATOR to be accomplished. We are all called to reign and to be a liberator. The devil does his best to ensure that the opposite happens. He fights for us to be his slave. Anyone who enters his God given destiny is going to influence--in the best sense--many people and wreak havoc in the ranks of the enemy. That is the reason that from our childhood, the devil tries to alter our destiny and divert us from our true calling.

He tried to kill Moses. He tried to kill Jesus.

If he knows that we are to become a minister he is going to try to make that impossible, to oppress during our childhood with timidity, various obstacles, fears, etc. He will try to cause us to marry a bad person.

We have to make a choice, as Jesus did in the desert, between our destiny and the devil's own proposition.

For certain people the choice is between God and riches, others between God and their own pride, others between God and women/men, others between God and respectability, between God and a quiet church, etc.

Many people of God HAVE DEVIATED in their calling because they have allowed their heart to become caught in one of the devil's traps.

Saul lost his position as king because of his pride.
Balaam from his position of prophet because of his love of money.
Solomon from his wisdom because of his love of women.
They all saw their destiny dramatically transformed!

God had anointed Samson and destined him to be liberator of his people, but he did not deal with his problem with women. He ended up having his eyes gouged out and became a slave to the Philistines. That was the devil's destiny for him, not God's.

The adversary will put in our path opportunities to fail. If we do not fight to RESIST TEMPTATION, in PERSEVERING in our course, in refusing to be DISCOURAGED, etc. our
destiny will not be accomplished, or we will only accomplish a half, quarter or only a tenth of its potential.

Jacob struggled for his destiny even against an angel (Personally, I believe it was an angel of judgment). After this struggle he fully entered into his destiny, receiving the title of "prince of God."

"Then the man said, let me go, for it is daybreak. But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." (Genesis 32:26)

This shows us the degree of determination with which the Lord waits for us to seize our destiny.

**JOSEPH**

We can learn many lessons from Joseph; I would like to use his life's journey to share several things that I think are important to understand in order to make life easier and also to enter into our destiny.

We see the revelation of ones destiny revealed in a dream. God talks to all of us, and will in one form or another reveal to us his destiny for our lives. For example, he will give us an ardent desire to go in a certain direction.

Joseph shares his vision instead of keeping it (as Mary in Luke 2:19) in his heart. It is important to understand that we often complicate God's plan by opening the door to the adversary, and THE PATH OF OUR DESTINY THEN BECOMES MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

I'll explain: In sharing his vision carelessly, with pride and at the wrong time, Joseph caused anger and jealousy in his family. He was sold by his own brothers soon after. Jacob, his father, thought he had lost his son. Did Joseph path of destiny have to be so hard? Was this God's will?

This plan seems harsh from a good God.

A dear American man of God with a most wonderful testimony told me that when he was a baby his mother wasn't able to feed him so she temporarily left him with another woman who disappeared with him. Many years later this man learned the truth and began searching for his mother. When he was 35 years old, he found his mother and while talking together they discovered that once many years earlier, in an attempt to find her son, his mother had questioned a young man on the street. Well, this young boy was her son!

In recounting this story, this brother told me, "It's like for Joseph, finally after all the suffering, entered into God's plan."

It's there that I disagree. From what I know of God and his nature, it was God's plan that the mother and son be reunited at the moment the mother found her young child on the street who quite "by accident was in her path." But for one reason or another, the angels were unable to bring this plan to fruition.

The Bible is full of stories which turned out badly because the devil succeeded in interfering and prevented the will of God from being done. In God's grace and by these men's perseverance who overcame their trials, their destiny was eventually fulfilled, but that does not mean that everything that they did and suffered was originally in God's plan.

Moses was not destined by God to kill the Egyptian.

Abraham was not destined by God to beget Ishmael, to pass his wife as his sister, destined
for these slip-ups which brought him many problems and suffering.

Jacob was not destined to steal the birthright from his brother.

Job was not destined to suffer as he suffered. If the fear factor had not entered into the equation, the devil would not have been able to lead him in the right direction of his destiny: illness, poverty, and dejection. Having persevered, he allowed God who can turn everything to our advantage to fulfill his destiny, that is to be rich, in good health and full of joy—despite everything.

By our clumsiness, sometimes, our disbelief other times, pride, immaturity, etc., we find ourselves often delivered into the will of our enemies rather than the Will of God.

"I gave you over to the greed of your enemies..." (Ezekiel 16:27)

The original Hebrew implies rather the idea of "forced permission," which has given rise to imperfect translations which give the impression that God with pleasure gives us over to the problems.

The fact that God can turn the devil's plan around, to our own advantage, does not mean that the devil's plans are God's plans.

If Joseph had listened to the Spirit, he would have certainly kept his vision to himself or only shared it privately and humbly with his parents. In doing this, he would have entered into God's destiny in a much less painful manner.

Imagine that if Mary had blared out to everyone she met that she was carrying before she was even married was the future Messiah. All Israel would have been after her, trying to stone her! That would not have prevented God from sending Jesus, but would have complicated things.

There are struggles, sufferings, and rejections in the Christian life. I don't deny that. Indeed the Bible says in I Thessalonians 3:3:

"so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them."

We must learn to be ready to listen to the Holy Spirit and learn from those who have lived, those who came before us, which enables us to avoid many detours, sufferings, and much wasted time. These detours have nothing to do with the Will of God, and we must come to adjust ourselves to the normal trials of life which are quite sufficient.

We can avoid the losses of time in the fulfillment of our destiny.

**DESTINY AND DESTINY**

God has predestined for each one of us, even before we were born, a destiny for our lives. One could say a program for our life, a program for each of our days:

"your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:16)

This plan is far from being fulfilled in most people's lives, Christians and sinners alike.

The devil wants to derail us from our destiny leading us in a totally opposite destiny. I think there is a principle which applies when we miss our proper destiny, we easily become the
opposite of what we were supposed to become.

Adam's destiny on earth was to dominate, and he found himself dominated by sin.

Before his fall, Satan's was called "cherubim protector"; after his fall, one of his names defining what he became is "Abaddon" meaning "the destroyer." (Ezekiel 28:4 & Revelation 9:11)

If God destines us to be a prophet, the devil will destine us to be a false prophet.
If God destines us to be a man of peace, the devil will destine us to be a man of anger.
If God destines us to be full of faith, the devil destines us to be full of fear.

God has destined us to be something other than withering at all levels!

"I said, You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler." (Psalm 82:6-7)

Hallelujah! In Christ the curse is lifted!

Are we going to choose the destiny that the devil has for us to be fulfilled or that which God has prepared for us?
I choose God's destiny for me!

"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation (in the fullest sense of the word) through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:9)
CHAPTER II

FIRST AND SECOND CHOICE

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

The Christian life as life in general is a life by choice. I would like through this second chapter not only to encourage us to make the right choice but to make it our first choice.

After we become Christians, one of the devil's ruses is to lead us to be content with a life of second choice, not only leading us astray from salvation but also from our calling, our destiny, and our ability to serve God effectively. Throughout scripture we see men taking up the common life; some in the sense that they have sinned as Samson, Saul, Balaam, etc., others in the sense that they opted for second choice when they were destined for first choice.

The books of Judges and I and II Kings show us many men chosen and blessed by God who did not know how to enter or stay in the fullness that the Lord had for them from the beginning. Reading about the kings, this classic phrase frequently recurs:

"....he reigned... he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.... The high places, however, were not removed..." (II Kings 15:1-5)

In other words, they followed God but were content to do it imperfectly, with a will and a way of second choices. When we make the choice of second best, we find ourselves with second-choice blessings. Whereas God wanted to feed us with the "finest wheat" and satisfy us with "honey from the rock," we find ourselves faced with stale bread and white sugar.

"If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes! Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever. But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." (Psalm 81:14-1 7)

Second choice is not always to live in sin. It is sometimes to live in the permissive will of God when we are called to his perfect will. It is like running on the spare tire rather than the proper one.

Second best has the taste and resembles the real thing... BUT IT IS NOT FIRST CHOICE!!!

I can always marry a kind, Christian woman and be happy in general, but what really matters is to marry the woman God plans for me.

I can always be in a church, but which one does God call me to hold a position in and be effective?

I can always be a minister, but what ministry exactly has God called me into.

It is time to be discontent with second choice!
GOD CALLS US TO FIRST CHOICE!

In buying meat, we have first choice, which is tender and melts in our mouth, and second choice, which is harder and fatty. Second choice is better than no choice at all, but in the end it is not the same. Always eating second-class meat will tend to give us high cholesterol (many Christians have spiritual cholesterol!)

Why are so many Christians happy with second best?

The answer is simple. The second choice/class costs less than the first. When the butcher offers us first class (Grade A) meat, he points out the difference in the cost. In the same way, in the Christian life, there is a higher price to pay to reach first class.

The devil is going to regularly try and divert us by proposing second choice. At the time, we do not notice the difference, but in the end we are not left with much. We even find ourselves paying a hundred times the price we intended by choosing second class.

In the beginning, second class seems the easy solution, but in the end it leads to the loss of our dreams.

ABRAHAM AND LOT

Abraham and Lot are typical examples of people who chose differently. At one point, they separated, and each one made a choice of direction. Abraham (at the time, Abram) said to Lot:

"Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left. Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah). So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company; Abraham lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord." (Genesis 13:9-12)

Lot looked at the plain which was green and let his eyes and impulsiveness influence his choice. Abraham was led by his heart, seeking Lot's interests, letting Lot choose first. They made their choice in two different states of mind (or spirit). It is our state of mind that will often define our choice. Our pride, impulsiveness, and visual judgment will cause us to make poor decisions thinking they are good ones. If a man chooses a wife based on her physical beauty he risks ending up seriously disappointed after only a few years of marriage. With passing years, physical beauty even if it remains will not be a sufficient reason to stay married.

"The Lord said to Abraham after Lot had parted from him, Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west; All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever." (Genesis 13:14)

After parting, God showed Abraham a much better land than Lot had chosen. We should make our choices impartially, with good intentions, even if it seems that we are losing in the beginning. God will show us very quickly that He has better things to give us than we can imagine.
"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!" (Ephesians 3:20-21)

After years of separation we see Abraham and Lot again. Abraham has succeeded in everything. Lot has lost everything. God still loves Lot, but He can only bring him out of the circumstances like an ember out of the fire. Our carnal choices pass away with time because the flesh's own nature is to pass away.

Despite everything, in his mercy God blesses as best he can second choice. We were called to full-time ministry, but we sell potatoes. God will bless potato sells yet in the end, we will be thinking, "If only we had followed our calling we'd be happier and deeply satisfied." Yet if God has called us to sell potatoes then we will be blessed and happy selling potatoes.

SECOND CHOICE AND HUMAN WILL

We are the ones who often choose God's second for our life!!! He is not the one who imposes it upon us because his plan for us from the beginning is the first choice!

God had foreseen, in his perfect plan, that the Hebrews did not have a king before the Messiah (or at least David) appeared, but the Jews demanded a king before the time. God finally gave them one and warned them about the the consequences.

"But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the Lord told him, "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as king... Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." (I Samuel 8:6,7,9)

God cites a list of disadvantages in having the kind of king they wanted. Why did they want a king anyway; it was second choice compared to what God had in store for them. The answer is so classic:

"The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and go out before us and fight our battles." (I Samuel 8:19-20)

They wanted to be like everyone else, and this way of thinking prevented them from choosing God's will as first choice. The desire to be like everyone else prevents many people from opting for first choice: we want traditional church meetings, a pastor like the others, a format that does not shock too much etc.

The devil has more openings, rights to act, in the second choice than in the first, and the king of Israel was soon a problem for the Israelites.

"... you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day." (I Samuel 8:18)
Digression: Brothers and sisters, the choice of our leaders must not be decided on the basis of who talks more loudly than the others or is less clumsy than the others, but on he who has more goodness and compassion than the others. For in the course of time, these are the characteristics that will cause him to help us, support, and love us, quite simply.

We see that God can grant our wishes for something which doesn't truly correspond to his will because we insist too much. By insisting in this way, we show that our will has priority over His. Problems soon follow these decisions. Thank God that he does not always answer every prayer as we think he should because in time we would regret those answers. Seeking God's will to the detriment of our own will, leads to the first choice. The opposite leads to second choice.

"YES BUT GOD PERMITS IT"

Sometimes we think that simply because God allows something it is his will. This is not always the case. God allowed the birth of Ishmael, yet he was called "the son according to the flesh," while Isaac is called the son of the promise. The son of the flesh soon began persecuting the son of the promise.

"Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son. (Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman." (Galatians 4:28-31)

Many of the Christians who have made the second choice find themselves criticizing those who have chosen the first choice and eventually begin to persecute them. It is a principle. There is too much flesh in the second choice. This causes carnal words and acts.

The Christian world is full of Ishmaels; we have all produced too many Ishmaels in the past. It is time to want Isaac, and Isaac alone! We are called to enter into the promises of Isaac, of FIRST CHOICE, to have first choice (first class) churches etc.

Where there is first choice, the anointing of laughter is often revealed because Isaac means laughter. The joy of the Lord is a sign of first choice. Where there is a spirit of dispute, malicious gossip and jealousy, it is an Ishmael church because Ishmael persecuted Isaac. (Galatians 4:29)

"But be careful, only the son of promise, who lives according to the Spirit, is supposed to inherit promises of various blessings." (Galatians 4:30)

Why did Abraham have Ishmael? Because at a certain point he lost his first choice vision! The first choice vision said that the promise would come through Sarah although she was elderly and barren.

All through our lives we are faced with two choices for our lives, our ministries, for our church, our home, etc. Based on our choice, we will have either the blessing of the first choice or the second choice.
NUANCES (SUBTLE DIFFERENCES)

The fact that we make first choice decisions does not mean that we will always live in abundance, every moment at all levels. I teach the message of prosperity because it is Biblical, and I believe that God wants to make His children prosper.

However, some think that if we are in God's perfect plan we will only live in prosperity which is unbalanced reasoning.

Paul states:

"...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:11-13)

It is important for Christians to be able to adapt to whatever situation they are in; a missionary who cannot handle a hotel without air conditioning is of little use for reaching the nations with the gospel.

Things can be either really good or really bad, and still be in the perfect will of God. Once when traveling in the United States we arrived to pick up our rental car but were told the intended car had not arrived and we would have to wait a short time. While I was praying in the parking lot, I had a sensation that an angel was on the premises taking care of us. Soon an employee came and told us that since the reserved car could not be provided, the management would give us, in its place, a car of much greater class and cost if we had rented that one. It was a white Cadillac, four-door, with all the luxury accessories.

We traveled in the United States for two months in this very nice car. It was as if God was saying, "I want to give you the first class concerning your comfort for this trip."

Now, following this trip we might be in Madagascar or The Congo, and have to wash in cold water, without the benefit of toilet seats yet be just as much in God's perfect will and plan as we were in the luxury car in the United States. Flexibility is an integral part of the service of the Lord.

BE THE FIRST CHOICE YOURSELVES

We all want first choice, a first class job, a first choice wife, a first choice ministry, etc. We must strive to be first choice or first class for others. Many people want to receive from others something they've not given themselves. They want to exchange peanuts for gold nuggets.

What a man sows, he reaps. Sow first choice and we will reap first choice. We need to become a first choice spouse, a first choice Christian.

May other people say of us, "this person is a person of peace; wherever he goes, he does good to people simply by his presence," instead of saying "How gross is he/she...."

For a long time I had a fox terrier; this type of dog has a very strong jaw. When we offered him a stick, he grasped it and would not let go.

We could lift the stick, turn around with it, and the dog still held on to the stick; he let himself be lifted up with it, even turning with it. It is the form of relentlessness, of faith, of perseverance which enables us to grasp the first choice in our life, despite the numerous traps of the devil who wants us to lose our grip and be content with second choice.
In these days, God needs a people who have opted for first choice, Christians of first choice with visions of first choice. For the revival that is coming is a revival of first choice.

May it be said on this subject as it was said of Mary:

"....but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42)
CHAPTER III
THERE IS A PLACE

The contents of this chapter came to me one morning, when my life and ministry were taking an important turn. I will start by sharing a psalm that I wrote that morning and summarizes the principal truths in this chapter:

There is a place where I must be, a place from which the anointing can flow with strength; a place where the blessing comes more easily, a place defined by a precise task, an exact time and place where I must be. It's the place which God has destined for me.

Throughout our lives we are called to find the place that God wants us to occupy, for it is here that we are fully efficient. When we enter the plan of God, this place is already blessed. This means that the blessings are much easier to grasp if we are in the place God has ordained for us. We struggle too much and for too little when we are not in the place we should be, to do what we should do, at the time we should do it. If we are in the wrong place, God's anointing and blessing are limited because God cannot bless us in His full measure.

We all know the feeling of sowing with difficulty to harvest very little, disproportionate to our efforts:

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little." (Haggai 1:9)

It is God's desire to bless us out of proportion to anything we can imagine:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20)

The effectiveness of faith, like the anointing and the blessing depends on this very important factor: finding our place. It is easier to have faith when we are in the right place! It is easier to make the anointing come! Easier to be blessed! Didn't Jesus say that His burden is light? (Matthew 11:30)

Often we struggle because have not found our field of action. I do not mean to imply that when we are in our place we will not have to fight and that the blessing will come automatically. No. But I am saying that our normal battles will bear much fruit.

THE EGGS IN THE GARDEN

When we are in God's chosen place for us, this plan is already blessed. It is like the game that we sometimes play with children at Easter when we hide the eggs in the garden and the children have to find them. If the children follow the arrows and markers correctly, they will find the eggs which their parents have hidden beforehand. It is the same with God. When we are in the right place, following the right directions, after a while we find the blessings put by the
Lord on the path of our destiny. At a certain point, we come across the egg of blessing of meeting a spouse, then that of financial solution to our needs, that of ministry, etc.

Many people do not find their eggs despite much fasting and prayer simply because they are in the wrong garden! Imagine the children starting to look for the eggs in the next-door neighbor's garden! They would grow tired looking, but never find the eggs because they are in the wrong garden.

If effectiveness depends on finding our place, finding our place depends on three unchangeable, inseparable factors: THE NATURE OF THE CALLING, THE PLACE, and THE TIME.

THE NATURE OF THE CALLING

Finding our place consists of finding out what God has called us to do and what he has not called us to do. We can be very efficient at one thing, if God has graced us there, but miserable and ineffective at something else that God has not called us to do.

"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." (Ephesians 4:7)

The grace of God is given to us in function of the gift which is in us. For example, if someone is called to welcome visitors in church, he/she will have grace to tolerate what another person would be unable to tolerate in this area. Anyone wishing to do the same thing without the grace is heading for disaster. This is what often happens: we launch into something in answer to an obvious need, but we do not have the grace which gives the strength, the ability, the courage and the anointing for it. Result: failure.

Good intentions are not sufficient! Trying to stay celibate without grace--sexual and emotional--for the celibate, is heading for trouble. Paul declares on the subject:

"I wish all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." (I Corinthians 7:7)

People worry sometimes whether their ministry will prosper and will other people recognize their calling, etc. The Bible says that:

"A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great." (Proverbs 18:16)

If we have a genuine gift from God, it will make a place for us. The accompanying anointing is going to break the yokes which would prevent us from prospering.

The Bible says that the gifts have been given for the edification of the body of Christ. We do not have to impose our gift on others. If it's real, it is going to bless enough people to open doors to us for the benefit of others.

If people need two weeks to recover from our prophesying, maybe we need to wait until we've matured.

A SERVANT OF GOD MUST HANDLE PRESSURES IN HIS MINISTRY THAT ONLY GOD'S GRACE AND ANOINTING CAN EMPOWER HIM TO DO. If we try a ministry that does not correspond to our calling, we will be deprived of the anointing which should
accompany it. When the storms come, we won't find the necessary strength to overcome them. It is the anointing that breaks the yoke, and if we are under the right anointing, we can break the yokes that try to hold us down.

If the desire to travel, the love of money, or glory is the motivation for the place we are in, we will never operate in the ministerial anointing. Obeying God's call is OBEDIENCE TO A VOCATION WHICH IS AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF YOU, obedience to a conviction which tells us everyday: "You've made the right choice, you're in the right place, in God's plan and God is WITH YOU! Continue... continue in this direction!

It is like finding the right wife. Once we are married, our heart tell us everyday, "She's the right one." We don't wake up each morning and wonder if we've made a mistake.

Jesus gave gifts to men, and He also gave men as gifts to his Church for its advancement and maturity. (Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4) God said to Jeremiah:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:3)

The text literally says, "I had GIVEN you (a) prophet..." We are a gift for the Body of Christ, for the world, for your spouse, for our parents, our children! We must try to not be a poisoned gift. There are many poisoned gifts in the churches, people who use their calling to destroy others instead of blessing them.

We also become a poisoned gift when we confuse our calling. Indeed he who should be relieving other people is putting yokes on their shoulders.

The same person who leads many people to the Lord and builds a church can destroy that church by too much teaching or in being its pastor if he has not been called of God to be the church's pastor. It is dangerous to not find our place; we risk being a hazard to others. Let's understand that is the anointing the breaks the yoke, THE LACK OF ANOINTING INCREASES THE BURDEN!

That is one reason that sometimes we are depressed and feel worse after hearing a message.

Finding our place is not an option but rather a command of the Holy Spirit:

"Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches." (I Corinthians 7:17)

Now, we can find the right place in the nature of our calling yet not the right geographical location where God wishes us to be.

THE PLACE

Paul was sent to the Gentiles and Peter to the Jews. Here we see the same ministry (category of calling)--apostle, but destined to express itself in a different context (location/place).

"For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles." (Galatians 2:8)
Peter and Paul did not think that because they were both apostles they could minister to whomever they chose. One knew he was called to the Gentiles and the other knew he was called to the Jews.

An apostle, prophet, etc. in the right place can be powerful, yet in the wrong place absolutely inefficient. A pastor in one church cannot go to another church and tell the pastor of that church that since he is a Pastor of the church down the street, he can now be pastor of this man's church. We must be the right person in the right place.

The same plant can blossom and bear fruit or die in a few days, depending on the place we decided to plant it. If, by nature it requires lots of sunlight, and we plant it in the shade, it will not grow well and may even die. It might continue growing but not bear much fruit. If, on the other hand, it needs cool conditions and we plant it in the sunlight, the same thing will happen.

In my garden, I have a date palm and an orange tree. It is hot in the south of France where we live, but for a date or an orange tree it is not hot enough. The two trees give fruit each year, but the fruit doesn't ripen sufficiently so the oranges are bitter and the dates have a strange taste. The solution is not to pray for forty days about these trees, but if I want the best fruit these trees can produce I must plant them in a warmer climate, Africa for example.

If we are not in the right place, the answer is not to pray more than usual, but rather to find the geographical place that corresponds to our calling and be there. It is only then that the promise concerning the righteous in Psalm 1 can be fulfilled:

"He is like a tree planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." (Psalm 1:3)

Why do so few Christians find this place near the springs of fresh water where much fruit is produced? Because, as with first choice, there is a price to pay for finding one's place; it does not necessarily start near fresh water springs and green pastures. Finding ones place generally implies leaving another. Something must be sacrificed with God to enter into His plan; this is an unchangeable Biblical principle. Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a man who found a pearl of great value:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." (Matthew 13:45-46)

The law of God's kingdom is that we cannot acquire the pearl of great value without selling all that we have, without letting go of something, giving up something. There is a momentary destabilization when we fully accept the place God has for us. It is an absolute rule for finding our place in God's plan and is demonstrated to us throughout scripture:

Elisha had to leave his field, his oxen and his family to follow Elijah (I Kings 19:19-21).
David had to leave his home and live in Saul's house (I Samuel 16-21-23).
Abraham left his own family for the unknown (Genesis 12:1-4)

All these and others accepted having their lives destabilized in order to enter into the first phase of their ministry.
They would never have become what they did become without taking the first costly step. I know many men who have never entered their calling and never will because they hate being destabilized.
Satan also sees to it that we will have all sorts of commitments and ties to discourage us from giving them up and moving forward in the plan of God.

We need to look for God's directions to the detriment of our fleshly desires, our little habits, our fears, the advice of those who want to decide God's will for us, etc.

In His Word, the Lord promises to extend the power of His servant David from a specific place:

"The LORD will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies." (Psalms 110:2)

Why? Because Zion was for David the place where he was called to reign, the place where his anointing as king was to be effective. Our Zion is the place where our calling is exercised. It's from there our anointing will be expressed most effectively.

THE TIME

One does not plant one day and harvest immediately, getting up and saying in the morning, "Let's harvest." There is a harvest time defined by nature when the wheat is ripe enough to harvest. Similarly, in life we cannot simply begin our calling outside God's timing. We do well or badly in a certain place depending on the timing. We are not in God's plan simply because we are at the right place but we must also be at the right place at the right time. When we have an appointment with someone, we schedule the exact time and place for that appointment. God's appointments are made at times and places planned by Him in advance.

When we are in God's timing, we also encounter circumstances put in place by God for changing our lives and others:

"I have seen something under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all." (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Imagine we are single and after church one Tuesday night, rather than taking the elevator we take the stairs to our apartment. While on the stairwell we meet the man/woman of our dreams. In the space of a few seconds, God has changed the course of our lives. Our form, wisdom, wealth, intelligence, and knowledge having nothing to do with that, as the Preacher said in Ecclesiastes. God has made the right thing happen at the right time! Without these divine encounters the most gifted of men would not get anywhere yet with these divine encounters even the weakest person can reach great heights!

In life there are moments when we must wait and not rush to move or change. Yet when it is the timing of God to move we must not be controlled by fear as the children of Israel were in the desert afraid to enter into Canaan. Jesus rebuked Israel for not recognizing the time and season of the Lord which eventually led to their downfall:

"They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave on stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." (Luke 19:44)
Brothers and sisters, if we wish to serve God, we must recognize the times of His visitations. Everything in life has a timing. For example, there is a time for bearing a child, about nine months. Before this time the baby is premature, or it can be even more serious. After the time has come, on the other hand, if the pregnancy lasts too long, the childbirth is induced and a Caeserian section is necessary.

There is a timing to our calling and for taking our place in the Church, the Body of Christ. To rush into it will expose our immaturity, our pride, our inconsistency etc. to the eyes of the people, who won't have confidence in us. This haste can even kill our ministry. Yet, too much waiting is going to bring unnecessary pains and friction to ourselves and others.

A classic example is a minister who establishes a church and pastors it for a period of time, in the timing of God, but eventually God's timing has passed and God leads this minister to leave this church and do something else somewhere else. The minister is happy and content in pastoring this church and does not move as God is leading; eventually both the minister and the people will become unhappy because the grace and anointing to do this work has progressively left the man. By prolonging his stay, the minister affects himself, the church and also the man/woman that God has called to that place at that time. Often these situations end very badly.

If we knew how to recognize the timing we would avoid many frustrations. What is good for one period is not good at another. Whereas the Israelites were in the perfect will of God for one year in the desert, but they were disobedient in refusing to go into Canaan. An entire generation perished in the desert. Many people die prematurely because they have not recognized the timing. God expects us to recognize His timing:

"Whoever obeys his (the kings) command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will i know the proper time and procedure." (Ecclesiastes 8:5)

THERE IS A PLACE FOR EACH OF US

There is a place in this world and in the Church for each one of us, a place where despite all the battles, the blessing, the anointing and the fruit are excellent. This position is when we stand complete in our calling in the correct geographical location and in the timing of God. Jesus said,

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

That means seeking God's will and being in the right place at the right time He wants us to be in for the advancement of His kingdom. If we do that, we do not need to be concerned about anything else. We simply must put our faith into action and we will see it work with more effectively. Our fasting and prayers will bear more fruit. Our commands to the spiritual world will be obeyed!

What does finding our place mean, if not to be directed by the Holy Spirit? Who else can reveal God's plans for our life except the Holy Spirit?

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)

The Holy Spirit does not always lead us through what appears to be the easy route, but one of his missions is to watch over us and to make us bear fruit. He led Elijah to a widow from the
land of Sidon because he knew that she would be able to receive a miracle when there were many widows in Israel at that time who wouldn't be able to receive anything. (Luke 4:25)

God knows all things and wants to lead us where He knows we will be successful. It works at the place where we should be under our anointing, at God's time and place. The Lord does not want us to waste our gifts. He wants to lead us where He knows we are going to be most useful and effective.

It is time to be in God's army with everyone in the positions God has called. Too often the sailors are flying the plane, the infantrymen wear the divers suits, the bureaucrats are on the front-lines while the fighters are sitting behind desks!

Then we are astonished when something goes wrong, and the front-line people disappear while paperwork stacks up on the desks.

We are called to free ourselves from false conceptions and evangelical projects which hinder us and begin to follow the Holy Spirit's instructions.

**GETTING OUT OF THE CIRCLE**

We are called to get out of the tedious routine or the circles that bind us. One day the Lord told me personally to get out of the circle. This circle was made of Christian habits, of a type of doing the work of the ministry which was good yesterday but was not good anymore. I had to get out of this circle if I wanted to REACH A HIGHER LEVEL.

I had to abandon the illusion of security to launch out into things humanly more dangerous. God was asking me to go to the nations and promised to help me find a balance with ministry, family life and church despite the crazy lifestyle I had to adopt.

The Lord asks us each one of us, no matter our stage, to get out of the circle and reach a higher, better position. Life is full of challenges and to refuse these challenges is to refuse to grow and develop. There will always be a challenge just before a lifting to a higher level. Our love for God should cause us to accept these challenges and move to the next level.

One day when I asked the Lord a question about a certain problem, he reminded me of the passage in II Kings 7:3-20.

The king of Samaria had besieged Jerusalem and there was such a famine in the city that the people were actually forced to eat their own babies! There were four lepers who decided, "Why sit we here until we die?" and decided that if they sat in the city they were going to die and if they went to the Syrian camp they might die. So they got up and began walking towards the enemy's camp.

As they walked the Bible says that the Lord sent ambushments against the enemy and when the lepers arrived, the problem was already solved. There was no enemy but there was food in abundance. All the city profited because these four lepers decided to get up and do something.

We see here specific Biblical principles:

We do not get out of a circle Satan is holding us in WITHOUT TAKING RISKS.

The weakest are used as instruments of deliverance!

As long as no one moved, nothing was done! When these men moved in a spirit of death to self, God's arm moved!

The four men's act of faith benefited the entire population of the city. There must be people in our midst willing to act for the benefit of others.
We often wait for the anointing and the blessing but never act. The reality is that there is a place for each of us where the anointing and our blessings wait.

"Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place..." (Isaiah 56:5, King James version)
CHAPTER IV

UNIQUENESS

One important thing that we must be aware of is that we are all unique! Being created in the image of God who is unique we can therefore only be unique! Logical? God is unique in that he is the only true God:

"Well said, teacher, the man replied, "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him." (Mark 12:32)

But also in the sense that none is like him:

"No one is like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power." (Jeremiah 10:6)

Each person is so unique that we can use fingerprints to identify people. There are no two identical ones in the world. No one is like us! WE ARE UNIQUE!!!! God loves and saves each of us individually, not as a group. If we had been the only sinner in the world, Jesus would have died for us!

God sees each of us as unique. He speaks of His Church and each one of us in these terms:

"...but my dove, my perfect one, is unique..." (Song of Solomon 6:9)

We can have many children and yet each of them is unique and loved by us individually. This is the same in the eyes of God for each of His millions of children in the world are each one special.

"When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother..." (Proverbs 4:3)

Thus, God is going to speak to each of us individually and in our own unique way (as well as in ways common to all men). There is but one Moses, one Elijah, one Peter, one David, one John the Baptist etc. Each of these personalities stands out in scripture as being unique. The twelve disciples were twelve individual men; we are original when we are unique.

There is too big a difference in those men of the Bible and the pastors of today who melts too easily into the masses.

BEING UNIQUE: THE ANOINTING FACTOR

God wants to use each of us differently from others. For example, Samson was used through strength and anointing which came from his hair. God did not use the hair for anointing for others; Samson was unique.
Uniformity is diabolical. The example of the Chinese cultural revolution where everyone dressed the same is one of the most classic examples to show us that authoritarianism and uniformity go together.

We should be beware of copies! Too many Christians, ministers, or singers are simply photocopies of others. When I invite people to minister in our church, I invite originals rather than copies who try hard to be a copy of others by speaking like them, moving like them, singing like them, prophesying like them etc. I want an original! We should marry the original. I believe there is a particular spouse for us on this earth etc.

"... but my dove, my perfect one is unique..." (Song of Solomon 6:9)  
"My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand." (Song of Solomon 5:10)

God has given us His only son and He wants something original from us as he did from Abraham.

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son..." (Hebrews 11:17)

Each church is called to be unique with its own personality, own praise style with compositions suited to that church, not a photocopy of every other church.

WE DON'T HAVE TO BE A COPY OF SOMEONE ELSE!

If we are a copy of someone else, it is time to change, and it is possible! We may be a copy of our father, our mother, spouse, pastor, etc., but God wants us to be the person He has destined us to be!

There is a difference between having a strong resemblance to someone and being positively influenced by someone and being a copy of that same person, dominated by his/her personality.

Many have sinned trying to be a copy of someone else. When we do this, we despised God's gift, our own gift. If we feel we are not worth much and cannot be an original, we have not taken enough time to get to know ourselves.

It is important to realize that those who have already successfully expressed their uniqueness are not the only unique ones. There are all the others who have not yet successfully expressed themselves but are no less unique by virtue of their creation and their CALLING.

We must be unique!!! Let us believe that we are each unique!!! Like David who said to God:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:14)

If David said that, we can too!  
We must realize what it means to be unique. We must realize that we are special! We are valuable! We are not inferior to others! Nor superior for that matter. We have a unique calling! We should not be ashamed to be unique even at the risk of sometimes doing things that appear
stupid. If we are constantly being unique it will be said of us, "that's typical of him/her!" We should refuse to blend with the masses.

At one point I had a problem in ministry because I thought I should do certain things just because it was expected and everyone else was doing it, but I was most uncomfortable with it. Although I am very comfortable singing and ministering on the platform, I am not comfortable speaking in social situations. I often feel that what I have to say has already been said. After trying for a while to force myself to do something with which I couldn't, I put my wife in charge of social encounters and other ministers in charge of other areas. In allowing ourselves to be ourselves, we also allow others to be themselves. I accepted myself and chose people gifted in those areas to represent me, and everyone is blessed.

We should not try to develop a personality that is not us because of what others expect. It isn't for others to shape our personality through their demands and the pressures they put on us. We should be unique, an original! Many people, even Christians, are boring, common people because they are trying to be something they are not. It is a common mistake, indeed a sin, to let routine settle into our lives. We should go back to our first love and try to be what we really are. It is time to believe we are called to live an interesting life.

It is time to forget and to stop believing what some people say about us. They might have said that we are stupid, we'll never get there or even who likes us enough to marry us?, etc. Even if it was our own parents who have pronounced such curses on our behalf, we should stop believing the lies. Parents do not have the right to speak such things to their children. Our spouse does not have that right either. Nor our pastor! No one has the right to bring us down and treat us in that way. We should not even treat ourselves in this way. We must stop believing all those demeaning declarations which have come from the mouth of others or to our own thoughts. We must replace them with what God says about us, and He says that we are unique and special.

Believing in our uniqueness produces extraordinary encouragement. If I believe that I am unique, that is going to involve lots of other areas of my thinking and life. I am going to believe that God loves me, and that I have a particular calling and am going to be moved to discover that calling. I am going to accept myself as an individual and discover a new assurance. I will be usable by God who I restrict if I do not believe in myself. It is not enough to believe in God, I must believe in what God is able to do in and through me.

I will never create anything special if I do not believe that I am someone special. That demands maybe a certain degree of craziness. Whence the question....
ARE YOU CRAZY ENOUGH?

Some people may remark that this is a strange chapter title in a book about the Bible, but it is more Biblical than we might have thought.

What do we mean by crazy? What madness are we talking about? The madness is not madness at all because there is nothing wiser than putting ourselves completely in the hands of God.

What God asks us to do sometimes seems like folly in the world system. For God's wisdom is the wisdom of faith, which is foolishness to the world. The wisdom of faith makes us do crazy things in the eyes of the world.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written, he catches the wise in their craftiness...." (I Corinthians 3:18)

This thinking started one day when I wanted to hug my wife, but she had a bad cold and sore throat. When I reached to hug her, she said, "Oh no, don't hug me. You'll catch my cold." I'm not sure if it is because I particularly wanted to hug her that day or what, but I suddenly became angry with a holy indignation. The idea that the bad germs would move from her to me, angered me. Shouldn't the opposite be true? Shouldn't the good be stronger than the bad? Shouldn't my good germs move to her, making her feel better rather than her bad germs moving to me and making me feel worse? I embraced my wife and told her, "It's for your sore throat to disappear by the effect of my kisses." Later when I shared this story in a sermon some religious people became indignant with me at such an idea and shocked that I would talk in that way at all. When the responsible people in our churches put too much emphasis on the worldly wisdom, we are in trouble.

"For since the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him. God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe." (I Corinthians 1:21)

LEADERS AND FOLLY

There is a minimum of DIVINE folly God calls us if we are to be used by Him in the coming revival and serve as ministers empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Paul speaks of his position as apostle in these words:

"We are fools for Christ but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored but we are dishonored!" (I Corinthians 4:10)

Are you crazy enough IN THE CAUSE OF CHRIST? Does our own way of reasoning and behaving surpass others to such an extent that they think that we have gone mad to a certain
point? When Paul appeared before Festus, the latter couldn't keep up with him,

"At this point, Festus interrupted Paul's defense. 'You are out of your mind, Paul!' he shouted. Your great learning is driving you insane." (Acts 26:24)

Do we want to be minister similar to Paul?

AT SOUFFLE NOUVEAU

At Souffle Nouveau, we have several areas of ministry that we value, but if someone can stir us with humor, yet be serious underneath, he still has to be sufficiently crazy enough.

Crazy enough, why?

Crazy enough to leave home for the ends of the earth if necessary.

Crazy enough to live by faith if God asks.

Crazy enough to go to the worse cases.

Crazy enough to believe that everything is possible for God and expect to see Him raise the dead, heal AIDS, see drug addicts delivered etc.

Crazy enough to pass for crazy, criticized and scorned on all sides.

Crazy enough to give his time, his money, open his house, LOSE HIS LIFE if necessary, for the work of the Lord.

GOOD AND BAD FOLLY

We must beware. There is good folly when God has truly spoken to us and we act on His words as crazy as it may seem, but there is also bad folly when we do something crazy without true conviction simply because we are influenced by something, or because we tell ourselves we must make a move one day when enough others do, etc.

True (good) folly is the folly of faith based on the certainty that God is calling us to do something, and in order to do that, we must do something that appears crazy to the world. There is bad folly which goes along with mystical behavior and being ready for anything to satisfy our pride and not trying to carry out God's calling. Thus the calling is just an excuse to satisfy this pride, and the folly is just an excuse to cover our desire to rave just a bit. There are many people in Church who are simply crazy and these people are dangerous!

The right folly is when there is PASSION, passion for God, passion for the things of God, passion for souls, passion for the church, when there is a FIRST LOVE, like two people who are madly in love. Being crazy in this way reveals an attitude of the heart. There is no point in being crazy for the sake of being crazy, even for God, but it is the crazy love we have for God which enables us to be crazy for Him.

"Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love." (Song of Solomon 2:5)

The beloved in the Song of Solomon does not worry too much about his image:

"Listen! My love! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills." (Song of Solomon 2:8)
He leaps and bounds simply because he is in love! It is the lover who seems half-drunk. God's Word exhorts us to come back to this gentle, sweet madness of first love. (Revelation 2: 4, 5)

**PASSION**

We are called to be passionate for God and the things of God. The word passion often creates fear in Christian circles for the Bible exhorts us to stay away from the destructive passions of this world. We must not confuse these passions with the passion which is the indispensable motor turning in our soul, for God has created passionate beings.

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

The Christianity we are called to live is not tame or flat. It must be motivated by the fire of passion. It is in our nature to be passionate, and if we do not have passion for God then we will develop a passion for something else: our pet, sin/habit, a woman/man other than our spouse, a different destiny than the one God has planned for us, etc.

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BIBLE HEROES**

We are called to be empowered by the folly which has characterized those who have followed God before us.

When Jehosaphat asked the Lord what plan of attack he should employ, the Lord asked him to first bring out the musicians and singers. It is crazy, isn't it?

To take Jericho, Joshua told the people to walk around the city seven times on the last day, then blow the trumpets and shout. Crazy? Yes.

Noah built an ark while people certainly mocked him, "Hey, Noah, how are you going to get your kind of boat to the sea?" Crazy?

Esther was crazy enough to appear before the king at the risk of her life.

The boy David confronted the giant, Goliath.

The disciples of Jesus, men mostly without great education, were crazy enough to decide to turn the world upside down!

Jesus Himself healed the blind with spittle and mud, and walked on the water! He is our model; the one we should imitate.

"Many of them said, "he is demon possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" (John 10:20)

**DAVID'S WARRIORS**

To serve Jesus as one should, the David of Davids, we are called to resemble the faithful warriors who surrounded David and served him without restraint. It is said of these men they made exploits and did crazy things motivated by love for their king.

"These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, a TAHKEMONITE, was
chief of the three; he raised his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter." (II Samuel 23:8)

One day almost on a whim, David decided that he should drink freely from a certain source of water, but the wells containing this water were right in the Philistine camp:

"So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate Bethlehem, and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead he poured it out before the Lord." (II Samuel 23:16)

These men's behavior could be described as senseless, but here too, as for the lovers in Song of Solomon, the fear of being swallowed up in their avowed love for their master. Note that these men are the brave men who enabled David to be established as king:

"These were the chiefs of David's might men--they, together with all Israel, gave his kingship strong support to extend it over the whole land, as the Lord had promised..." (I Chronicles 11:10)

God chooses brave men today, crazy enough to do humanly senseless acts of bravery, and who He is going to use to establish His son's kingdom on this earth.

**CHRIST'S CHOICE**

From the beginning of time, God has selected those He wants to use. This choice isn't made on racial grounds but according to a readiness to obey the craziest instructions He gives us. Jesus has done it for those who must come later. He said to the rich, young ruler:

"When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me." (Luke 18:33)

This young man was not crazy enough to obey and to abandon his riches. To another Jesus said:

"But Jesus told him, "Follow me and let the dead bury the own dead." (Matthew 8:22)

He asked this man not to do what any worthy son would have done, and be ready to defy family pressure. For yet another:

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." (Matthew 9:9)

Matthew had to be crazy enough to leave his job. What if God asked us to simply walk away from our job today? If we were working at the Post Office, for example, and people are waiting in line and we simply get up and walk away from our job with people waiting in line. Someone in the line would probably ask what was wrong with us.
Someone might respond, "It seems that God spoke to them." It's crazy!

Reading these lines we might believe that we should leave our job and sell everything and give it all to the poor. That we shouldn't bury our parent who has just died. Certainly not!

The rich young ruler was slave to his riches, Matthew to his job and his dishonesty. Perhaps the one who had to bury his father was oppressed by family pressures as many are, and Jesus put him to the challenge of freeing himself from this bondage.

For each of us, the challenge is different, but what God asks of each of us will at some point be as crazy as what He asked these people to do.

**AM I MAD ENOUGH?**

Am I mad enough? Is my pastor mad enough? He will never be able to lead his church beyond his experience.

Are we crazy enough to marry a Christian crazy for God? Boiling-hot Christians should marry boiling-hot Christians; lukewarm Christians should marry lukewarm ones. It is totally unfair to date a person who wants to serve God earnestly if we do not want the same.

**GIDEON AND GOD’S CHOICE**

Gideon was a fearful and weak man. But after selecting Gideon, God selects the people he's going to use to save Israel:

".... announce now to the people, "Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead". So twenty-two thousand men left; while ten thousand remained." (Judges 7:3)

Fear is the opposite of FAITH. We must work with men of faith, not timid or negative. Afterwards:

"But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water and I will sift them for you there. If I say, "This one shall go with you, he shall go; but if I say, "This one shall not go with you, he shall not go. So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give you the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go, each to his own place." (Judges 7:4-7)

Those who remain at first are those who go down to the water: those who ARE THIRSTY. But that is not sufficient. From these people, Gideon must make a second selection, those who lap up the water like dogs will not be retained.

Before experiencing a revival that will bring large churches, there is going to be a time when certain among them are going to narrow, for God's choice to be made.
JEHU

King Ahab and his people were manipulated for many years by a sorceress name Jezebel. What sort of man puts a stop to this type of activity? Look at what the Scripture said about him when he was coming from afar.

"The lookout reported, "he has reached them, but he isn't coming back either. The driving is like that of Jhu son of Nimshi--he drives a madman." (II Kings 9:20)

Jehu was recognized from afar by his way of driving. It was said he drove like a lunatic.

Are we recognized from afar by his way of driving. It was said he drove like a lunatic.

"Then Jehu went to Jezebel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window....," Throw her down! Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they they trampled her underfoot." (II Kings 30-33)

Here we have a man who was not very courteous. Jezebel went out, put on her makeup thinking this was a man she was going to charm like the others, but he didn't even look at her and ordered an end to her reign straight-away.

Perhaps someone is a very respectable minister, with his fine tie, years of Bible college, fine sermons, well-known for his balanced approach, without excesses, highly esteemed in much of the evangelical world. It is said of this man from afar off that he has matters firmly in hand, but he finds himself helpless as soon as a woman makes eyes at him. The Lord prefers the Jehus, who are subject to controversy in the Evangelical world but who throw the Jezebels out of the window before they've even had the time to shift their gaze so charmingly.

Jehu was odd, peculiar, and noble at the same time. Isn't this folly which should motivate us, in fact, a sort of nobility which gets us to behave against the tide of a world whose wisdom leads to ones destruction?

HONOR

An important thing to rediscover in the heart of the Church of God is honor. Honor is a very Biblical idea. The Bible says to honor others, certain people in positions of authority, our close relations etc. We are called to search for honor. Certain chivalrous movements are synonymous with honor. An honorable man preferred to lose ones life rather than go back on his word or lie. He was ready to give his life up to protect a widow or an orphan--ready to lose one's life rather than one's honor.

It is important in our destiny to succeed in ones life but also ones death, to live for a cause and to be able to die for it as well!

This is according to the example that Christ set for us. He was willing to give up his life for those He loved.
Many people want to receive honor without committing their hearts to honorable things. God wants to raise up a type of Christian and minister who has honor. Because of honor, we are not going to lower ourselves to the level of those who criticize or hate us, we aren't going to give back evil for evil, we aren't going to lower ourselves to live in sin.

France, who was known at one time for its concept of liberty, equality, and brotherhood, has lost a large part of its honor.

Several of our leaders have supported unjust causes, given up on Israel, criticized others widely.

Several of the greatest dictators and oppressors of their people were sheltered in the capital, etc.

But I have a word for these times and for our country, "A breed of Christians is arising so that liberty, equality, and brotherhood become a reality brought in line with current tastes. These people will be known for their folly, as much as our Biblical models have been.

That does not mean that we should not obey the laws of our land. On the contrary, this folly of zeal is subject to the observation of incontrovertible Biblical rules.
CHAPTER VI

SOME UNDENIABLE RULES

Good motivations will urge us to respect the specific rules without which what we do is meaningless.

THE COMPASSION INGREDIENT

The Bible tells us on several occasions that Jesus was moved with compassion for the people who came to him needing a miracle. He was moved with compassion when He saw their suffering.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." (Mark 6:34)

Motivated by this compassion, he did miracles!!! If Jesus was moved by a spirit of compassion, we who are called to walk in his footsteps are certainly called to be equally moved by it. For that reason, it is essential that we understand exactly what compassion is.

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony, with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8)

He who wants to heal the sick, raise the dead, and be in ministry without being motivated by the desire to relieve their sufferings, without IDENTIFYING with people's sufferings, even if he could do miracles etc., risks being among the people the Lord told, "I never knew you."

To know God, is not do the miracles, but to have the motivation, the heart of God to do them. Many people are called to ministry but few accept to hear clearly God's voice concerning this calling because of the sacrifice necessary. Their compassion isn't strong enough to make them abandon some of their privileges and habits to give themselves for others, but compassion is crucial in ministry. The ministry is the call to servanthood, and we are called to show first and foremost the love of Christ to people. A man's motivation will decide his whole future before God and men.

God wants us to succeed in our personal lives and in the ministry; that is how we fulfill our destiny, but he does not want this success to be the motivation but rather the product or logical consequence. We can help people WITH COMPASSION and succeed by this just as we can try to use people to help us succeed.

Miracles are not the expression of a God who is saying look at me and see how great I am, but rather his natural response in love to hurting humanity. When Jesus saw this woman whose son was being buried, he didn't say to her to come over here and let me show you how powerful I am, but rather we are told that:

"When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "don't cry." (Luke 7:13)
For all the mothers of children who suffer disease and maladies, it is not our aim to use their children as guinea pigs to show the greatness of our ministry, but our hearts must be to tell them, "Dry your tears, dear mother, and in Jesus name and his great love, your child is healed!"

The Bible says,

".... faith expressing itself through love." (Galatians 5:6)

Compassion is the integral expression of love. Whoever loves has compassion. Once I heard a minister trying to pray for people, but when he asked them to line up the people didn't understand so he said angrily into the microphone, "They don't even know how to line up!" I thought to myself, "My friend you are just about to shatter the power of your anointing." I then decided that when God used me in this way, I would not treat people like that. Often we hear ministers speak to others as though they are idiots. That's an absurdity regarding the nature of their calling because the ministry consists of helping, supporting, serving, and having compassion for people.

Let's ask God to make us an instrument to help those who don't have what we have. Let's not judge people by the fact that they aren't blessed while we are, that they don't have faith like we have, etc.,

Let's continue to help people; if not, it is the best way to lose it. We are told to,

".... mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15)

We should think of those who suffer and ask God to make us an instrument for their consolation, their healing, and deliverance. For more wonders to appear, we must, I am convinced cultivate more compassion in our lives. My own destiny depends on my level of compassion:

"...because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!" (James 2:13)

HOW TO ENTER IN ONES OWN VISION

Churches are full of people who want to enter their own vision but do not know how. As a result, they often try to enter at the wrong time or in the wrong way, and the result is catastrophic. We enter our own vision by SERVING GOD.

Who has a vision? When do we want to enter it? First thing we must do is to help a minister already in place enter his. He risks not being able to accomplish his vision if everyone is concentrating at the same time on their own vision. Often this minister will create unknowingly, open doors allowing you to enter your own vision. You could look for them all your life without finding them.

Joshua was Moses' servant before taking the children of Israel into Canaan.
Elisha was Elijah's servant before having the double anointing.
Samuel was the servant of the high priest Eli before becoming the principal prophet for Israel.
David was Saul's servant before becoming king.
The apostles served Jesus before overturning the world. We must notice that all these men were servants of another minister. They assisted these other ministers in accomplishing their calling. They did not seek the fulfillment of their own vision but the vision of the ones they served. As a result of this attitude they were launched into their own ministry. Are we ready to help our pastor enter fully into his vision? Or are we too impatient with our own vision? If we are too impatient, our vision won't develop. There are anointings which God has planned that we should join until that anointing comes over us. If we disconnect from that anointing too quickly, we will drift aimlessly.

When Lot separated from Abraham to follow his own vision, he chose to go towards the beginning of the end. We must remember that everything we sow into another ministry we will reap in ours. All we sow in church today, we will reap in our own future church. If we sow peace, we will reap peace. If it's animosity and division that we sow, we will harvest them one day also. It is a Biblical principle. We want to make sure that when it's time to enter into our vision we seek well the interests and the glorification of the person and the name of Jesus.

NAME AND NAME

"Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

At the time of the tower of Babel, we are told that men sought to make a name for themselves looking for their own glory rather than to glorify the name of the Lord.

The works we set up need a name, but if that name becomes more important than the name of Jesus there is going to be trouble. Structures and their names are important, and it is immature to begin saying that denominations are diabolical. They should allow us to achieve our goals, but sometimes sadly they become the goal.

We aren't supposed to seek to make a name for us like the artists of this world seek glory. It is God who makes our name and gives us a new name if we are faithful (as he did with Saul). The principle is Biblical, but it won't be to the detriment of the name of Jesus. Although advertising is necessary for the building of our ministries; without it people do not know about us and they cannot attend our services, but this advertising cannot be taken to such an extent that it hinders the glorification of the name of Jesus.

Sometimes people enter a Biblical truth and then do not know how to stop afterwards, taking it to an extreme. Well, a truth pushed to the limit rapidly becomes a counter-truth.

At Souffle-Nouveau, we have agreed to only invite the meek and humble people to minister, and not the haughty anymore, whatever the signs that accompany their ministry.

LIVE WHAT YOU PREACH AND PREACH WHAT YOU LIVE

God calls us to live what we preach before we share it with others. Some who preach the gift and the seed continually, as a means of meeting their financial needs, are actually deep in debt. Others preach family values yet are on the brink of divorce.

In our destiny, we must to not become what I call a fake.
WATCH OUT FOR FAKES

THE PRINCIPAL ENEMIES OF THE 7 CHURCHES were the false prophets, and one could say the fakes, in general:

To Ephesus:

"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance, I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false." (Revelation 2:2)

To Smyrna:

"I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but a synagogue of Satan." (Revelation 2:9)

To Pergamom:

"Nevertheless, I have a few things against you. You have people there who hold to the teachings of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans." (Revelation 2:14-15)

The principal enemies of the Church of today are the same—the fakes. Paul speaks of false brothers who caused him all sorts of persecutions (II Corinthians 11:26 and Galatians 2:4). There is a much more subtle battle than the possibility of prophets from other religions or Satanic groups taking over the churches. It's the battle between the TRUE PROPHETS OF GOD AND THOSE WHO THINK THEY ARE BUT AREN'T.

When God breathes new life into a calling or ministry gift there are many people who also arise with the same title but who are not called of God to stand in that office.

Any minister, especially a prophet, finds himself facing this particular situation. Once I was in a gathering representing France; I was intending to share all the wonderful things God was doing in France, but there was also a man there who thought it was more important to show himself as the prophet of judgment for France who gave an entirely different report to the people than I did. The people in the meeting were left with the feeling that France was only good for judgment simply because this man wanted to shine as the prophet announcing God's judgment.

Under the Old Covenant, the prophet was a unique enough ministry. Under the New Covenant, there are five specific ministries given to the Church, prophet being one of them. Under the New Covenant the prophet will always confirm a direction that a person has already received in his spirit by the Holy Spirit and not direct someone saying, "God said do this and God said do that..."

"...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

Any person who tries to function in this ministry according to the principles in the Old Covenant becomes a false prophet!
Several of them are not even prophets of God, but they are false prophets.

It is possible for someone to be a Christian and have a false ministry or badly operate a true one. Someone can be a true pastor, but trying to operate in the office of prophet; he is still a true pastor, but not a true prophet. He is true in his true calling but false in what isn't his calling. (I refer you to my book *Let the Five Ministries Arise* which treats this subject in more detail)

THE TRUE FAKE

The true fakes are people who don't have the calling of prophet, apostle, pastor, etc., yet try all the same to be one. They are convinced, motivated generally by pride, that God has established them, but it is not true.

THE FALSE GENUINE ONES

These are people who on the other hand have received at the outset a true ministry, but who use this ministry badly (that is they don't keep certain rules). They thus become, in practice, false prophets, false apostles, and false pastors because they make a false job out of a true ministry. This case is even more tricky because they received a true anointing of prophet at one time, these people will prophesy justly one day and falsely the next, or even justly one time and minutes later falsely. This creates confusion for people because they don't realize this is possible.

Sometimes new converts realize the call of God on their lives and this often leads to pride. Others receive calls which have nothing to do with reality. They then try to operate the ministry without the calling, without the inner conviction and to model our lives on these prophecies would be catastrophic.

WATCH OUT FOR MANIPULATION!

Many things done in the name of God are not God at all! Many offerings are taken like this and people are left with a feeling as though they've been stung as in a supermarket when we wonder why we bought certain things.

How many people go to church out of fear? If they miss, the pastor is going to call them and reprimand them for missing. There are pastors who tyrannize God's people, like some dictators of countries.

The most excellent spiritual manipulation comes in the form of "God said...," "God told me...," or "God told me you should marry..."

I am not saying that we should never say, God said, but often the way it is done implies that there is no way anyone can argue with them and people are discouraged from analyzing the prophecy. A true prophet will often say that God told him something but to judge it by our own hearts.

WATCH OUT FOR OCCULTISM!

When a person starts to operate a ministry in a bad state of mind (spirit) without respecting the rules, he leaves himself open to a bad spirit,
"Among the prophets of Samaria I saw this repulsive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray." (Jeremiah 23:13)

There is a growth in our churches today called charismatic occultism and at the root it is because ministries and gifts of the Spirit have been handled badly. Outwardly, this phenomenon appears as the expression of gifts and ministries of the Spirit, but at the bottom it proceeds from a demonic principle.

The manipulation of people in the name of Christ is WITCHCRAFT disguised. Charismatic witchcraft is much more widespread than one might think in our Pentecostal meetings. What is the definition of witchcraft? It is forcing or putting pressure on people to do things that do not correspond to their will, mainly through SEDUCTION, FEAR and DECEPTION.

Let's make sure that we do not become a true fake or false genuine minister; our destiny will be dramatically changed as in the case of Saul, Balaam, Samson and many others. Let's look at the spirit behind all that is done in Jesus name. God's Word itself demands that we do that:

"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil." (I Thessalonians 5:21)

WATCH OUT FOR PRIDE!

Pride is the principle cause of the blindness that causes a person to adopt a mystical mania and become false or a fake. Pride is the very nature of Satan and every blessing or victory is followed by a temptation. The blessing then becomes at risk of falling.

We are tempted by pride WHEN GOD VISITS US, when we enter into things of the Spirit and the gifts flow through us. At that point, people begin to see us and others begin to need that anointing; it's a natural process. At this point, the adversary attacks us with pride, and if we listen to him, we will let ourselves run to pride. Without realizing it we are progressively leaving the influence of God's spirit and putting ourselves under the control of a bad spirit.

It is not God's fault. It is our responsibility to watch and TO STAY HUMBLE.

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

When Christians have problems among themselves things often disintegrate because they forget who they are. Recently, I witnessed a very sad situation--the breakup of a local church. Unhandled issues lead to explosive situations and many people got hurt by the anger and fighting of Christians; they thought they were justified in seriously hurting each other. I didn't understand; if they want to close the church, close the church, but don't act in such a way to cause such hurt to so many people.

When a man loses sight of who he is, he does not behave or react as he should any more. The distorted image he has of himself pulls him down and leads him to act unworthily. This image can be either pride or it can be low self esteem. In the cartoon "The Lion King" the young Simba becomes a vagabond without a clear goal.

One day, he has a vision of his father who tells him, "You have forgotten who you are!". He had forgotten that he was future KING of the jungle.

We must remember that a man will never succeed beyond the image he has of himself! How many prostitutes have a high image of themselves? Improve their image and we see how long they continue in prostitution!
Peter, addressing Christians told them:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (I Peter 2:9)

We must keep alive the vision of who we are!
A NOBLE BEING and not despicable!
A being saved and not lost!
CHAPTER VII

THE SPIRIT OF DAVID AND THE SPIRIT OF SAUL

"After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things that have been known for ages." (Acts 13:16-18)

The times of revival can be described as Davidic times (or times of David). At the revival, it is God who raises the tent of David. This means that God raises an army of "Davids," led by "David's servants" who walk in the footsteps of David who have a heart like David's (a heart after God's own heart).

It seems that there has never been so many ministers who are musicians or artists as today. That is because of the Spirit of David which is in the air (obviously we are talking about the Holy Spirit.)

The devil who understands this truth and who always offers a counterfeit has raised false Davids the last few years, such as David Berg, nicknamed Moses-David, guru of the sect of the children of God and David Coren, guru of the sect of Davidians who led his followers in a mass suicide. It is not by chance that these men called by the name of David.

Nevertheless, the fake is only a weapon of the devil. David's greatest enemy was not his deception or the Philistines. David's most ferocious, vicious, troublesome and painful enemy was Saul. Similarly, Jesus's greatest enemy was not the Romans who crucified him, but the Pharisees without whose insistence the Romans would not have tried to kill Jesus. Paul's greatest enemies were not the Gentiles but his pious brothers who were opposed to the Gospel and pursued him to kill him.

In this same way today, this spirit of Saul is a serious obstacle to revival; more than people in the world who want to oppose the advancement of the kingdom of God. It rages in the Church and particularly in God's servants (ministers), and with certain people who occupy high places (Saul was King of Israel). It tries to have influence on us. We are going to be tempted and have been tempted to follow its ways. A large number of ministers are dominated to varying degrees, without realizing it is the spirit of Saul.

As we desire and begin to follow God, we will either choose to be a David or a Saul, depending on which spirits we choose to yield ourselves.

Why speak of the spirit of Saul?

This world and the development of things depends on wars involving good and bad spirits in the spiritual realm, that is angels and demons. These are the spirits which lead men to commit good or bad deeds. Let's look at Jezebel (I Kings 16:31). This woman governed the country by manipulating her husband and was at the same time a sorceress and false prophetess. Well, the book of Revelation talks about her as though she's still alive while the book of Kings tells of her fall and death-- she would have died of old age long before John wrote the book of Revelation in
"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols." (Revelation 2:20)

Why is Jezebel mentioned in Revelation? Because even though Jezebel had died years ago, the evil spirit which dominated there, itself was always very active and raged in the midst even of the Church at Thyatira, dominating a person who established the church. The Jezebel at the time of the Kings was such a good instrument in the hands of an evil spirit she even gave her name to this class of spirits!

It is the same with Saul. As long as he walked in humility he was an upright man, serving God and his people. when he let himself succumb to pride, his entire personality changed. He put himself under the influence of a bad spirit. He quickly became inhabited by this evil spirit and became a tyrant.

"Now the spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil (or injurious) spirit from the Lord tormented him." (I Samuel 16:14)

In the same way that the spirit inhabited Jezebel, shaped her personality, that which dwelt in Saul did the same. A spirit of Saul is going to produce automatically in the personality of a person the same traits that characterized Saul. We can, like Jezebel, call this sort of spirit, "spirit of Saul".

Satan set up against David, through a man, a certain category of precisely defined spirits, and he does the same today regarding the Davids that God has anointed in these times. For even though Saul is long since dead, the spirit of Saul lives on.

Why was the spirit of Saul particularly painful for David? Because Saul represented the jealousy of a father, the degeneration of a model, the betrayal of a friend. A real bond of love existed at first between David and Saul:

"David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour bearers." (I Samuel 16:21)

The spirit of Saul is a king that oppresses his own people, a blind force off destruction at the service of one man's ego. Pastors who present the same symptoms are far from being exceptions in the Body of Christ. The spirit of Saul not only touches the physical side in trying to destroy, but the spirit of Saul also touches and destroys an emotional or paternal link, or friendships. It affects values such as self esteem, solidarity, etc. and will shatter our dreams.

It breaks up or hinders relationship in the Church. The spirit of Saul is in the Church, on the platforms, on view--it is on those who should have been fathers for so many ministers.

WHERE ARE THE FATHERS?

The young ministers need spiritual fathers and have had trouble finding them as yet in France. Often young ministers are forced to find them in English books or translations. How many ministers have put more obstacles than anything else in the way of those who should have
helped them enter the ministry. How many are jealous of others' success! Can a father be jealous of his son? No, a father rejoices if his son achieves even more than he has.

Many people are bothered these days when someone who has less experience than they do has risen up after them and who is more courageous in going to battle and crushing Satan's hordes underfoot. Then they do anything they can to put these younger ministers down.

Jesus leaving his disciples did not say to them, "I am going away. Now make sure that you don't do more miracles than I did." On the contrary:

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I go to the father." (John 14:12)

We all need fathers and everyone of us has been called to be a father to someone. That requires patience, love and affection, and a vision of what the person is going to be and not what he is at that time. Where are the fathers? Where are the Davids and Abrahams, whose children will continue to carry the vision? There are often too many Sauls and Jezebels in our path when we are trying to find guidance for the rest of our lives.

Whether we decide to be Sauls or Davids will affect our whole life and the life of others who follow us. It is our place in or outside the revival which will be defined by it.

It is important also to understand what characterized David. In the same way that we are called to have a special kind of faith, the faith of Abraham, we aren't just called to be humble but to have the humility of David. I believe that this humility actually had a personality.

Saul fell because of his pride; David prospered because of his humility.

**HUMILITY**

All his life, David remembered where he had come from and gave glory to God. When he killed Goliath, just as when he was brought into Saul's house, he looked at everything as a wonderful favor:

"But David said to Saul, "who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" (I Samuel 18:18)

Many men have success which goes to their head. When they see things working in their life, they start to look down on others and adopt an attitude of "I deserve it, after all." Saul erected a monument to himself (I Samuel 15:12). The spirit of Saul causes a person to want things centered on them. Serving God becomes an excuse to serve oneself. The work and ministry becomes an idol.

When Saul became king and ruled over Judah and Israel, David always expressed himself with humility, through his songs and proclaimed the benefits of humility over pride:

"Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar." (Psalm 138:6)

When he sinned and was severely reprimanded, he wept and threw himself on the ground. (II Samuel 12:13). When his sin was exposed, Saul continued to look for excuses and accuse others. (I Samuel 15:19)
It is one thing to be humble when one has nothing; it's another to stay that way when God begins to prosper us. My friends, pride has caused us to make many mistakes, because pride blinds us. If we do not want to be disqualified for the upcoming revival, let us decide to serve God in humility. We must adopt the heart of a servant. Men who want to become ministers haven't always understood that being a servant of God is actually TO BE A SERVANT. A servant does not desire to shine and be seen but to serve and therefore to humble ourselves. Well, he who humbles himself will be exalted, whereas he who exalts himself will be humbled. (Luke 18:14)

The spirit of David makes us stay simple once we've prospered, instead of becoming big headed and stuffed with pride and to have humility to recognize our mistakes if necessary.

Saul was a manipulator; David had:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

David's renown was built on the opposite principle to those of Saul. David knew how to love people naturally:

"After David had finished talking of it with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David and he loved him as himself." (I Samuel 18:1)

"Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well." (I Samuel 18:5)

He who respects others will find grace around them. God respects us to the extent of letting us lose our way if we do not voluntarily go to Him. His Spirit in us can only make us act in the same way. A pastor, for example, must not try to keep his congregation at all costs, but must want them to be wherever they feel they can flourish the most, even if it's not in his church. The people are not our property!

The spirit of Saul is indistinguishable from the spirit of control: control of the church, control of our spouse, control of the Holy Spirit. The spirit of control is widespread among ministers and is the result of insecurity. One wants to know all about the people around us, or wants to make decisions for them, to control their lives, their ministry, etc.

God's Spirit wants to rescue the Church from the hands of many irresponsible people. We are not supposed to exercise a spirit of control over the people, including our own wife or our children, for:

" and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (II Corinthians 3:17)

Manipulating others in the name of love as so many pretend to do is nonsense because love respects the personality, the choices, as well as the tastes of others.

WISDOM

When we speak of the spirit of David, we are talking about an expression of the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is a Spirit of wisdom (II Timothy 1:7). We do not get very far without wisdom:
"Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future of hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." (Proverbs 24:14)

As opposed to Saul who is impulsive, David thinks about things, weighing the pros and cons. And above all, as is mentioned several times, David consulted God regularly. (I Samuel 23:2-4; I Samuel 30:8; II Samuel 2:1; I and II Samuel 5:19-23)

The Bible says that pride will blind us. Saul did senseless things and acted illogically. For example, he asked the people to fast in the middle of a battle that required the maximum of physical strength (I Samuel 14:24). His own son reckoned that his father had acted in a thoughtless way. It put lives at risk. The spirit of Saul is ready to put people in the most embarrassing situations to show who is in charge. Even when one is wrong, one still persists for fear of losing face.

Wisdom consists of not relying on one's own wisdom, but to trust implicitly in God who knows everything. For that, we are called to consult Him. This is what characterized David. He wanted God's advice and guidance in everything. The spirit of David makes us look for God's interests and those of the Kingdom, and not our own.

The Bible says that:

"A man's wisdom give him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." (Proverbs 19:11)

David therefore had gentleness.

GENTLENESS

Saul was an angry man and even Samuel watched his step. When God sent him to Jesse's house, he feared for his life:

"How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." (I Samuel 16:2)

He knew the violent character of Saul. Violent word and actions, marked with anger is a well defined characteristic of the spirit of Saul. Well, the Bible encourages ministers to be full of gentleness (II Timothy 4:2). There is a serious problem when a minister (one of God's servants) is a man prone to anger.

David is a gentle person. He calmly puts up with all that Saul and others did to him without letting himself become angry or bitter. Everyone is shouting in today's world--at work, at school, husbands shout at their wives and wives shout at their husbands. If they go back to church and find a bad-tempered pastor, they will be put off and not know where to turn. Many people are even afraid of their pastor!

Jesus said that he came to comfort the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1). We don't console people when we are bad tempered and continually being rude to them. The minister who is an angry man, does not truly have the right to occupy himself with God's people.

The Bible is clear on the topic:

"Let your gentleness be evident to all." (Philippians 4:3)
"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and patience." (I Timothy 6:11)

It was said of Jesus Himself:

"See your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey..." (Matthew 21:5)

A spirit of gentleness characterizes the spirit of David.

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently." (Galatians 6:1)

Advice to quick tempered people: Do you want to be a David or a Saul?

REJOICING AT OTHERS' SUCCESS

When Saul saw that David had found favor with the people, we are told that:

"And from that time on, Saul kept a jealous eye on David." (I Samuel 18:9)

When we are jealous of others, we regard them with a jealous eye. We are called to be happy about the rise and promotion of others. How can we train people effectively if we are afraid they'll have more success than we do? Doesn't a father rejoice that his children succeed more than he does? David got everything ready for his son Solomon to have a reign more blessed than he, whereas Saul led his own sons along with him into death.

THERE IS TOO MUCH COMPETITION in the heart of God's people and among the ministers. We are called to seek the interest of others, their own interests, their ministry and their church. The spirit of David takes pleasure in the prosperity of others. Paul encourages us in this way:

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

CONSTANCY

Saul is volatile; he has flashes of lucidity which do not last. When David spared his life in the cave of En Gedi, Saul began calling David, "my son," seeming to repent and recognize his mistakes (I Samuel 24:16, 26:21) He goes as far as publicly blessing David (I Samuel 26:25), but soon afterwards, his bad feelings return. The same scenario was repeated when David saves his life a second time, taking only his lance and a pitcher of water (I Samuel 24). He declares he repents anew (I Samuel 24:21), but David doesn't trust him this time. He has come to know Saul too well and decides to flee even further from him (I Samuel 27:1). With someone influenced by the spirit of Saul, we never know where we stand. Depending on the day, the moment, or his moods his plans have completely changed.

I know people who are quite lucid one moment and we feel reassured. Then when I see them
again that day or the next, nothing at all is settled. After a while I decided it is too unsettling, even dangerous to stay in their company.

We are called to be diligent in our vision, our friendships, etc. David was followed by many people because he reassured them. His words were only in the direction of God's plans and promises. Have we received God's promises? There will be opportunities in our path to divert us, but by persevering on good days and bad, we will stay on the track or course.

"Be joyful always." (I Thessalonians 5:16)  
"always give thanks" (Ephesians 5:20)  
"pray continually" (I Thessalonians 5:17)

With Sauls we never know where we stand. One day he wants to kill David, the next day he does not want to kill him anymore. Well, we need to work with people with whom we know where they are going. Constancy is an essential qualify for conquering:

"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance..." (II Timothy 3:10)

"I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first." (Revelation 2:19)

TOLERANCE

"Love bears all things." (I Corinthians 13:7)

David tolerated many things without complaining, keeping his eyes fixed on the one who merits it—God! Saul felt pity for himself, and it is the most absurd of his symptoms. He who destroys everyone in his way, reckons that he is still the victim. He becomes paranoid, believing that everyone is against him, and feels sorry for himself (I Samuel 22:8). Many of the Christians who do this type of thing are generally snivelers at the same time also. They make up things, imagine all sorts of things, believe them, feel misunderstood and victimized. They don't seem to realize that there are victims everywhere in their wake because they are blinded by this spirit of Saul.

Often very angry men are actually overly sensitive, timid and lack self assurance. An example from the world is the mafia leaders who always need their mothers. It is a well-known paradox shown in gangster films. It said many times in the Bible that Saul in face feared David (I Samuel 18:12-29). He had no reason to fear a man who was so faithful, but in his own insecurity he began to imagine things. The spirit of David makes us put up with unjust suffering and persecution, without getting angry at God.

"But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God." (I Peter 2:20).

We have too many sniveling Christians in our churches. Saul accused everyone. Suffering can produce extreme behavior and cause us to blame others for our sufferings. We are called to be capable of enduring suffering within reason. David suffered but he knew how to cope with
the sufferings and put himself back in God's hands. He expressed this reality in the Psalms:

"But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased." (Psalm 39:2)

He preferred to have a spirit of praise when facing any situation:

"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips." (Psalm 34:1)

God has made us a people who rather than complaining are supposed to proclaim His praises (Isaiah 43:21)

**LOVE**

David did not return bad for bad with Saul. In the end, he refused to touch the Lord's anointed, fallen as he was. David had already had a revelation of the spirit of the New Testament, in which Jesus enjoins us to love even our enemies. (Matthew 5:44)

The spirit of Saul causes hate in a person. It is hate that caused Saul to kill the men offering sacrifices and to want to kill David (I Samuel 22:17). Hate makes us lose our sense of reason and makes us a murderer even if we don't actually commit murder physically. It was the origin of hate that killed his brother Abel or that of Ishmael who persecuted Isaac. It is all the more strong when it comes from love or friendship which has turned to hate.

David had a lot of love in him. He loved his son Absalom even when he tried to dethrone him. David is one of the characters of the Old Testament in whom the personality of God dwelt most strongly. This was characterized by compassion, mercy, slow to anger, etc. During his flight from Saul, David did good to all the cast-offs and rejected ones who followed him. During his reign he continued to bless those who had been faithful to him even to the household of Saul.

David did not have a spirit of vengeance but of mercy. We need ministers such as this, men who don't condemn all those who disagree with them. We need to learn to be good to those who hurt us, doing good even to our enemies.

Here you have the state of the spirit of men of God, of the Revival!

**BE TRUE !**

How can we follow an angry, unstable, sniveling man if we are not seduced? Saul seduced people by way of doing and saying things far from glorious. Many people and ministers try to keep people with them at the same time, denigrating other ministers and churches. That is what Saul did.

"Saul said to them, "listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?" (I Samuel 22:7)

Just as he could not wear Saul's armor to fight Goliath, David all his life, tried not to be encumbered with a personality not his own to please others. Like David, get rid of the
playacting, of all that is weighing you down, desire to appear a certain way, of what others want to impose on us to manage our life etc.

Being ourselves is the most important thing to effectively serve God. The calling and anointing that God wants to utilize with you has been planned beforehand, studied by Him to enable us to assume who we are. When we start trying to be someone we aren't, something we're not called to do, we short-circuit the power of this anointing and the plan that God has for us.

Certain people have been so conditioned to be quite safe themselves that they never enter into the anointing or the work that God has for them. If God has called us, we don't need to play at being one; it's God who will do it. When we are true, we are liked for what we really are, not for what someone thinks we are. When we want to charm others, we must use tricks to make people believe we are something we are not.

God calls us to be true, to be ourselves! Truth is a force capable of setting us free and those around us free also.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jon 8:32)

The spirit of David is the KEY which opens the door to us of service in a royal dimension.

"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens, no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." (Revelation 3:7)

In being called "son of David" the Lord honored someone as never before. He did this because, among the men in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in anyone as he had in David, revealing in advance God's heart.

The Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David and directed many of his actions:

"Brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David..." (Acts 1:16)

David went through a number of experiences on the path to his destiny, not always pleasant experiences but ones which prepared him for what was to come.

DAVID'S TRAINING

When David was anointed by Samuel, he was not led straight into the office of king. No. He was put on the path which would lead him there one day. It started in style! He found himself faced with Goliath. Goliath couldn't have seemed in the beginning God's answer for David, but he was.

The fact that David killed Goliath opened the door of the house of Saul to David. There he learned the job of king by being in contact with Saul, often learning what not to do rather than what to do! Then he had to take flight from Saul. Despite himself though, Saul made a mature man of David able to overcome animosity.

David had to prove his bravery in the face of each of these trials. These trials are what made David a king. Although the devil sends the trials to destroy us, God uses them to TRAIN US, and form our character.
"And the God of all grace, who called you to be his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (I Peter 5:10)

Through the deeds, reactions, and words of David, we can grasp more clearly what the Holy Spirit who lives in us can do with us and through us.

Let us keep the Sauls without falling into the trap of returning bad for bad, and let us BE Davids who walk in the footsteps of the "son of David": Jesus Christ, the Lord.

David was called a "man after God's own heart" so obviously the spirit of David would above all be a matter of the heart.
CHAPTER VIII

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HEART

Recently my wife and I were discussing how many people have difficulty living the promises of God. Although they are good, sincere Christians, a large number of them, whose life is continually tossed about, are often even the instruments in the adversary's hands.

While I was considering how to help people really stop being influenced by Satan, God's Spirit told me that we must teach them to look after their heart.

In fact, I heard the Holy Spirit tell me this when I was getting out of bed, between my bed and the bedside table, to be precise. This little detail lets us know that God wants us to know specific times and places when he speaks to us. He wants us to be able to say, "God spoke to me at this and such a place at this and such a time" where we are accustomed to hearing His voice. The following well-known verse came to me clearly in the spirit:

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

Many Christians do not know how to look after their heart. One day they want to do one thing and the next day they don't; hey like a person one day and the next they don't.

They are confused in their heart often not knowing if something is coming from themselves or the devil. There are promises for those who look after their hearts:

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)

Whoever wants to inherit must keep his heart humble.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8)

Those who want to see God at work, more and more in their life and around them, must keep their heart pure!

"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart..." (Psalm 24:3,4)

He who wants to ascend always nearer to God, must watch over his heart!

The heart is the center from which the good as well as the bad comes.

Our acts and our works are only the consequence of how our heart beats.

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45)

From what should we keep our heart?
From all the bad which can lodge itself in or remain there.

"For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." (Matthew 15:19)

We are called to watch over what we allow to be put into our heart:

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." (Hebrews 12:15)

Not to let ourselves be robbed of the good which is sowed there:

"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path." (Matthew 13:19)

To eradicate what doesn't have its places there:

"banish anxiety from your heart..." (Ecclesiastes 12:2)

Our heart will be full of things we like. If I am interested in things of the spirit, my heart will fill itself with qualities of the Spirit, and if I get caught up in the flesh, it is going fill itself with carnal desires:

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR HEART?

Let's share several points which seem to be very important to understand:

TO HAVE THE STATE OF MIND -- NOT GUILT BUT RESPONSIBILITY

We don't solve our problems by minimizing our responsibility. Blaming others doesn't solve our problems either. When Adam sinned and God came to look for him, he tried to shift the blame to the woman, and the woman shifted the blame to the snake. The Bible doesn't record what the snake said but we can imagine it was something like, "It's your fault, you shouldn't have created us."

We can see that shifting the blame on others is an automatic reaction which dates from long ago. Widespread as always, it is essentially a sign of immaturity. It's my wife's fault... my husband's... my parents... my children... my pastor... etc., is a classic trick of the devil for denying us access to God and to forgiveness by repentance.

In order to repent we must accept responsibility for our actions. The principle of salvation, and all that proceeds from it, is built on repentance. There is no repentance without recognition of one's personal responsibility. We can accept responsibility without blaming ourselves too much. Blaming ourselves excessively in reality forces us to become discouraged and run away from responsibilities.
Faced with their respective responsibilities, Peter chose to repent whereas Judas let himself get into depression and went and hanged himself. Many people fall, unconsciously, into depression to avoid repentance, but the only solution is not to deceive our heart, but to face our responsibility.

We are the ones who must protect our hearts, not God! WE ARE RESPONSIBLE for what we let remain or settle into our heart. Paul tells us:

"...do not give the devil a foothold." (Ephesians 4:27)

God who examines our hearts makes us responsible for the state of our heart. Therefore, we must learn to reason differently. The problem isn't what the other person has done to me, said to me, or has in his heart against me. The problem is how I react to it. What do I let enter my heart when faced with the problem? In fact, spiritually, I am the cause of my own problems! Not other people!

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." (Matthew 5:11)

I can also help them by not returning bad for bad. It all depends on my attitude of heart, and the attitude of my heart depends on ME!

It is immaturity to shift the blame on others. MATURITY is to REPENT because we recognize that it's our attitude of heart that changes everything.

**USING THE PRESSURES TO GAUGE YOUR HEART AND ERADICATE THE BAD FROM IT**

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure, who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

What comes out at the time of certain pressures is what IS. If we pay attention during those times, we can get rid of the bad. By squeezing a bad wound, pus comes out. This isn't pleasant in the beginning but prepares the wound for disinfecting.

"For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring anger produces strife." (Proverbs 30:33)

When we squeeze a lemon, lemon juice comes out. If we squeeze an orange, orange juice. An angry Christian will quarrel when he is hard pressed.

When we press a Christian full of bitterness, bitterness comes out of him.

When we press a Christian who is too soft, he complains and reacts in self pity.

When we squeeze a touchy Christian, he reacts with touchiness. The Lord told me that being touchy, or easily offended, is one of the main things that stops us entering our calling. We sulk because someone didn't do just exactly like we think they should. While I am sulking, the humble and not easily offended pass me by!

Press a slandering Christian and malicious gossip will come out; press a concerned Christian and we will get... an ulcer.
But I press, in the vice-like grip of the ordeal, frustrations, deficiencies, a Christian filled with love, and he will bring forth love. Squeeze a Christian full of compassion, and he will exude compassion (even for those who are pressing him).

What comes out when one squeezes is as much the good as the rotten which is in us. People have remarked on the fact that during wartime, so-called respectable people become monsters while others become heroes. Their deep inner being is revealed under pressure of wartime. Everyone knows where he stands when he is pressed, not when everything is fine. The test is supposed to produce a result. This result will be good or bad according to how I decide to react when tested:

".....because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." (James 1:3)

Our attitude and reactions under pressure confront us with our motivations, and all that happens under the eye of God, who knows our heart.

"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments." (Deuteronomy 8:2)

Reacting badly makes us go round in circles, as the Hebrews did in the desert, indeed getting worse. Reacting well allows us to STRENGTHEN OUR HEART and leads us to BLESSING!

"He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you." (Deuteronomy 8:16)

What can we learn from our times of testing? That God alone is our rock, or that it's money. That you love your spouse and stay at her side, during tests, or that we allow them to face the adversity alone.

RESISTING

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Resist the devil, certainly, but how? Does that mean we fight the devil in person? No! He is not omnipresent! We fight on many battle fronts, but mainly fight in the area of THOUGHTS.

"It's from the heart that bad thoughts come..." (Matthew 15:19)

These can be thoughts of malicious gossip, bitterness, pride, envy, etc. We are called to say no to these thoughts and not keep them alive. A temptation thought kept alive becomes an obsession, and the obsession kept alive becomes an oppression which can produce a demonization. All this from thoughts.

One day my wife lost a 500 franc (old money) note at a shopping center. As she ran back to try and find it, I began to become angry as I started thinking of all the unpleasant things I was going to say to her if she couldn't find it. Suddenly the Holy Spirit reminded me of two things: first I had lost equivalent sums over the course of our marriage and second that I should
react as I would want her to react if I were the one who'd lost the money.

When she came back she hadn't found the money, but rather than saying all those mean things I'd thought, I said with all the gentleness I could muster something like, "It's not serious; it could have happened to me. God will make it up to us."

I may have lost the 500 francs but I gained the love and respect of my wife. 500 francs for the love of my wife, it's nothing! Many would be ready to pay much more to be loved by someone. I lost nothing that day; on the contrary I gained!

Resisting means using one of man's greatest gifts--THE WILL. We must believe that our will is strong and develop the will. Developing one's will goes together with learning to say YES and NO!

"Simply let your "Yes" be "Yes" and your "No" be "No"; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matthew 5:37)

Many Christians are like mischievous children; no matter how many times we've told them, at the first, "no" they are angry and pouting. As ministers it is very easy to simply say "yes" and play God; making sure that everyone is taken care of and happy; always saying "yes" to people rather than saying the occasional required, "no." I have regretted playing God, saying yes to everyone, believing I should bring the solution to all men's problems. Today, I have reconsidered and have decided to say all the "no's" I think should be said and accept the eventual reaction that could result from it. We are called to resist the temptation of sin, but equally we'll not say all the "yes's" in creation and not to play super-spiritual. Nevertheless resisting doesn't have much value or effect if we don't understand the following principle:

**BEING FOND OF THE RIGHT THINGS**

This point creates a balance in resisting which implies making effort and struggling. Serving God isn't something that I do from obligation. God's laws must be written in my heart and be something I take pleasure in, in my heart.

"Bind them on your fingers; write them down on the tablet of your heart." (Proverbs 7:3)

"...and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code." (Romans 2:29)

There is a maximum of effort to make in the Christian life to resist adversity, to sanctify oneself, etc., but if our life is only effort and resisting, we are certainly in the process of fighting ourselves with our own strength. To sanctify ourself means to set apart. By choosing the right thoughts over the bad ones we sanctify our thoughts. Nevertheless, our concern is not to make ourselves spiritual but to have a passion for God's plan. In His plan, God employs us. He EMPLOYS OUR THOUGHTS and surrounds us in a way that makes the sanctification a natural process. We withstand Satan but without struggling.

"And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)
When we have a passion for the things of God, He sets us apart from those that harm us. Trying to sanctify ourself without being passionate for God is a painful, tiring process, which does not change much but makes us feel worse.

"the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." (Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.) (Romans 8:7)

It's like a man resisting being unfaithful to his wife when he doesn't love her. The answer isn't to struggle against adultery but to love ones wife. When a man loves his wife, the last thing one wants to do then is to be unfaithful to her or deceive her. Resisting temptation is not difficult when one is fond of the right things.

"The mind of a sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)

That doesn't mean that we shouldn't struggle or resist, but we shouldn't overdo it. The power of temptation to do evil is SWALLOWED UP in the desire to do good! The power of death is swallowed up by life!

When someone is oppressed by seemingly endless problems, that is a sign of a deeper problem--they are not as occupied with God and things of God as they should be. When we are fond of the things of God, the problems, without denying they exist, lose their power. We must have our eyes, our affection, and our HEART in the right place.

When God put Adam and Eve together, it wasn't simply to build a well-behaved family. A person's aim when they marry should not be to simply build a family, it won't bring goodness. God put Adam and Eve together to DOMINATE and SUBDUE CREATION. We need to bind ourselves to our spouse or friends with the vision of dominating over events, subduing anything that is trying to stop us living our destiny and preventing God's plan from being carried out.

The strength of this motivation is going to swallow up the problems on the way. Two people in a couple who have TOGETHER fixed their eyes on the vision, a common goal even the fact, as important as it is, to be together and form a family, haven't the time to mutually examine each other's faults for their gaze is fixed on HIGHER THINGS!

It is like a person who walks with his head hung down. He sees all the rubbish and litter blowing along the street and quickly gets the impression the whole world is only a heap of rubbish! But if he lifts his eyes to heaven, his vision will change. Seeking God's interest first will actually serve our own interests in the end:

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

If we are a sparrow, the answer isn't to make every effort to fly like an eagle. If we are a mule, the solution isn't applying to a famous racecourse saying that God will help us during the race. For it's not our nature. If we are a Sunday morning Christian, we cannot try to live at the level of those who have devoted all their days to God. We cannot say, "I am doing as others and it is not working." We must be on fire for God like the others. We will become what our heart is
fond of. Our thoughts will naturally produce life or death. When we give too much importance to forms, for example, we pass by things of real value. This is what happens when too much importance is placed in certain places to the manner for example of how Communion should be served, the outward appearance, etc.

When forms take the place of the love affair which is real Christianity, it becomes religiosity.

This was the problem with the Pharisees, who emphasized hand washing to be pure rather than watching their heart and their mouth.

"But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean." (Matthew 15:18-20)

Religiosity is the most subtle of the adversary's means of attack. We are called to watch our heart, to be its doorkeeper.
CHAPTER IX

THE WORK GOD DOES IN US

Two complementary things are important to understand in how God works in us. First, we must understand that we are called to enter in the works...

"which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

Second, we must understand that we are supposed to allow God to do His work in us!

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

This is the same thing as letting Christ occupy more place in us (Galatians 4:1). We must remember to do the works of God and let God do the work.

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus.. equip you with everything good for doing his will and may he work in what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13: 20-21)

We must therefore on the one hand, bear fruit of God's plan, and on the other hand, bear fruit LETTING GOD DO A WORK of transformation in us! We must allow God to change our mentality and renew our mind. Paul, addressing the church at Galatia, tells them to allow Christ to be formed in them:

"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...." (Galatians 4:19)

When we are converted, we are a baby Christian and must grow and develop spiritually. We grow spiritually by allowing the work of God in us. As we allow God to work in us, we develop and Christ expresses himself more fully through us. Our two objectives are--doing the work of God (God's plan for our life) and letting God do His work in us.

TWO EXTREMES

We often find in the Church, TWO CURRENTS OF IMBALANCE.

-Those who, too centered on the works God asks them to carry out, neglect to let Him accomplish a work in them
-Those who, too centered on letting God carry out His work in them, neglect the works they should fulfill for Him.

While we take care of doing works for God, we can neglect our inner being, our spirit man.
It is common to see people who love God and busy working for him, are also angry, jealous, and stressed. Also, we can be too obsessed by trying to develop as a person, filling our time always seeking something to change or improve and then become ineffective and unproductive in serving God.

In every case, a step forward requires a sacrifice. It is the principle of the vine Jesus uses, when the vine bears fruit the Father prunes it so that it will bear even more fruit (John 15:2). The Bible tells of of being sanctified vessels or vessels of honor, which are useful to their master.

"some articles are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work." (II Timothy 2:21)

We are useful when we are transformed. The more transformed we are, the more useful we are! Therefore, the more we permit God to do His work in us, the more capable we are of doing the works of God. If we think we can be successful doing the works of God but have a poor character we are fooling ourselves. We also must not only allow God to work in us, but we do the work of the calling. Living faith produces works!

"But someone will say, "you have faith; I have deed." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." (James 2:18)

When the life of the Spirit develops in us, God inspires us to do things, for He then produces...

"to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

**WHAT I AM AND WHAT I DO**

What (who) I am is more important than what I do! The idea of DOING in order to BE is actually backwards. Who I am controls what I do, and who I am is a direct result of the work that I allow God to do in my heart before I have done a single act for God. I must allow faith to grow, rid myself of guilt and accept the justice God OFFERS ME IN CHRIST!!!

My first work that God wants me to do is to accept the law of Grace. The law of grace simply states that I am saved, purified, and loved just as I am. It's justification by faith without works! (Romans 3:28). From this comes the work of TRANSFORMATION which I must allow God to do in me and the ability to do works prepared in advance. This leads to the accomplishment or fulfillment of my destiny.

I do because I am, and the more I do the more I develop what I am (my calling). In this sense, most simply, I do because I am and the more I do the more I am. Who I am controls what I do. Understand?

**EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE**

Seen from the angle of the work God does in me each day, everything then makes sense. I must seek that the works I am doing are the works of God's plan. Even if I find myself outside this plan, God can still use my mistakes to assist in perfecting me. It certainly wasn't God's
perfect plan for Job to suffer as he did, but God used the pressure of his sufferings to perfect (mature) him. Even when his wife suggested he curse God, Job did not. This showed that no matter what happened Job was devoted to God.

It is important to realize that both big and small things allow God's work to be done in us. If only we could accept this principle! Even something so seemingly minor as changing the toilet paper roll so the next person doesn't have to, becomes a part of my perfecting, even my training for ministry. Helping my wife with housework, not responding in anger when someone verbally attacks me, saying sorry if I get angry, not giving bad for bad, etc., all constitutes part of my training course and my transformation.

**WE ARE IN TRAINING!**

We regularly go through times when we feel that our life serves no purpose and we can do nothing to help others. We are faced with circumstances which demand all our energy to keep us from sinking, and our ministry and calling to break the yokes of the people seems compromised.

In fact, we are frustrated because we cannot do works for God. We must remember that during these periods, even when we cannot do works for God, that isn't going to stop Him from doing His work in us. Let's change our way of looking at things! It is good to start seeing life from this principle: Whatever circumstances arise in our life, we are IN TRAINING, in training to be more effective for Christ and in the formation of Christ in us!

In training when I am stuck in traffic, in training when someone speaks badly about me and I don't respond. I am in training when it seems that I am not getting my prayers answered, when nothing seems to work. I am in training when someone deceives me and I continue to love him, when my spouse does something dumb and I don't judge him/her... etc. When viewed from the angle of training, everything makes sense.

Now, are we going to pass our training tests?

**WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

When God does his work in us, we become aware of many things, one of which is that we are more than conquerors! In all the unpleasant things which confront us, we are NEVERTHELESS CONQUERORS ! We should begin to see ourselves as such, no matter the situations we face. This was Paul's policy:

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:35-37)

Paul talks about the many trials he went through and mentions that these extreme situations enabled him to be able to demonstrate the life of Christ even more fully to others. (II Corinthians 1:8-9)

Pressure helps to bring out the life of God in us, depending on our attitude about the pressure of course! Paul does not say, "We have left God's plan and therefore all this has happened...." Some things happen as a direct result of disobedience but looked at from this viewpoint, any trial or anything which inconveniences us is false.

Victory isn't only when everything succeeds, but must be in our heart and in our head, above all!
"This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4)

When I realize this, I REMAIN CONQUEROR even in the midst of trials! I am victorious not because everything goes well, but because Christ is in me!

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57)

Even if I don't see it immediately, I am victorious and must use my present situation to make the victory count, rather than running away from it. This is the reason it is not always good to be delivered from a trial quickly.

NOT ALWAYS QUICKLY....

Joseph was not released from prison immediately although his ultimate calling was to be ruler of Egypt one day. David was not delivered from Saul all the years he was with him although his destiny was to be king.

These men with powerful callings were destined to be delivered, but one can also say that it's because they weren't delivered immediately they were able to succeed in their destiny.

How many people would have fallen into pride if they had succeeded too easily and quickly, but the difficulties formed patience, mercy and humility in them.

God wants to deliver us, for example, from this church in which we are oppressed, but it would be a mistake to leave before it was time.

God wants to deliver us from this Saul-like pastor, but like David, it is going to be necessary to serve him till the end with respect, and wait for the release from God.

God wants to deliver us from that difficult spouse, but He asks us to continue because he wants to give him a chance until the very end.

There are heavenly interests at stake which go beyond our own interests and thoughts from God that surpass ours (Isaiah 55:9). The more we submit to the heavenly interests at the detriment of our own, the more the future reward will be great.

The greater the price, the more powerful the harvest.

Perhaps we are going through a time that if it only depended on us, we would be delivered immediately. Yet if God does it, he knows that it would be to our ultimate destruction or the destruction of someone we care about.

Your "thorn in the flesh" isn't destined to stay, but it protects us while the work of God is done in us. (II Corinthians 12:7). Paul's thorn in the flesh helped him control his tendency to be proud.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION

It is wise to not always seek our deliverance from situations immediately, but rather to take our position as conqueror. We should take advantage of our situation for the interests of God's kingdom.

'Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain
Many people do not take advantage of their situation because they have an elementary idea of victory. They believe that if everything is going well, they have good health, money, good health; then they have victory! That is great and is ultimately God's plan for us, but it doesn't often start like that at all!

The victory is inseparable from overcoming suffering. It is possible that we should even embrace the heart of the suffering.

Let's not spoil situations we haven't been delivered from yet. We shouldn't just endure the difficult boss at work, but rather proclaim the gospel to him by our actions. Be a blessing to him! Show him we are more than conquerors of his moods and meanness.

We can change the atmosphere at work. We can make a difference!

1 Peter 3:1 speaks of wives winning over their unsaved husbands by showing the good works of Christ, by loving them and supporting them, not by always nagging them. Many times, it is just the opposite, we use lots of words and little actions to try and change our spouses, friends, and family.

We should look at our situations and ask, "How can I use my situation to the best advantage to bless God's interests, blessing brothers and sisters of the church... and even my enemies?"

To affect the authorities, some must go to court again as was the case of Paul (Colossians 4:3). To reach out to prisoners it is absolutely necessary that some go to the prisons (Luke 21:12-15).

It is important to have a mentality of seeking at the heart of our situation, what we can bring to others and to God, rather than what we can always get out of it for ourselves.

There are people always disappointed because in any situation they only look for what can bless THEM, but someone who has a minister's heart seeks to use a situation to see how to bless others.

**CHRIST IS OUR VICTORY!**

We can become more and more conquerors in everyday life, in health, relationships, material things, etc. But let's not wait for everything to work well in all areas before we consider ourselves victorious, reasoning as conquerors and putting the victory into actions where we find ourselves.

If we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS in trials, it means that we are conquerors IN THE MIDST of trials, DESPITE the trials, and that God is even going to USE the trials to give the opportunity for the victory to MATERIALIZE.

Maybe the devil has created certain situations in our lives so that we can be totally defeated. He wants us to think defeat, talk defeat, and prepare for defeat! Biblically though, the righteous are supposed to proclaim, "The Lord be praised when they are surrounded by their enemies, and.....

"As they pass through the valley of Baca (tears), they make a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools (of blessings). (Psalm 84:6)

The righteous man transforms his situations BY HIS REACTIONS when facing trials. When
he uses them to allow God's work to be done in him, the victory will progressively invade all areas of his life.

You are MORE THAN CONQUERORS!
From today forward, think as conquerors!
Speak as conquerors!
Walk as conquerors!
CHAPTER X

OUR HIDDEN LIFE

Making a success of our destiny goes well beyond the limits of what is seen.

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18)

The adversary often tries to make us fall into pride pushing us to expose our works to everyone. Conversely, he tries to convince us that we haven't done much for the visible things aren't as impressive as we think they should be.

It is important to have a true assessment of things, and to understand that God does not judge by what is visible to the human eye, but by what He sees Himself. God sees things hidden as well as the unseen.

Depending on the situation:

What is visible corresponds more or less to what is invisible, but what is visible is an illusion when compared with what really exists. What is visible is inferior to what is invisible.

APPEARANCES ARE DECEPTIVE

If there are situations which are judged on the grounds of having prospered in the eyes of everyone, there are others which can seem to be a failure humanly speaking, but isn't at all in fact. The situations which seem to be failures in men's eyes, can represent victories in God's eyes.

From the human perspective, Jesus came to establish God's kingdom. Well, he wasn't recognized by most of the officials at that time. He lived thirty years without seeming to do very much, exercised his ministry for three and a half years then was crucified like a common thief. Many Jews thought, "That's our Messiah, the liberator of his people? Not only doesn't he deliver us from the Romans, but he ends up crucified by them."

The leader of the cult that bears his name, Moon, delivers a message that Jesus missed his mission. His death on the cross proves it, he claims. Moon has received the initiative to "take up the flame" to lead this mission that was aborted in its course.

Well, Jesus' death on the cross is humanity's Salvation, the victory over darkness! Victory and not defeat!

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." (Colossians 2:15)

Not having fully grasped this truth, Peter himself thought he had to do everything humanly possible to keep Jesus from dying on the cross, but when he tried Jesus reprimanded him and told him he was "badly inspired."
Similarly, the devil wants to make us believe that certain things we are experiencing or have experienced are not something God can use to advance his kingdom because they don't seem very glorious on the outside. If that's true, certain trials serve no purpose and should be avoided, for others we must look deeper and see things with the eye of the Spirit.

**OUR LIFE IS TEMPORARILY HIDDEN**

We must learn to do things unseen by people but seen by God. It is not important to be approved by men, but we must be sure that we are approved by God. Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight." (Luke 16:15)

It is not so important to appear or to not appear. Now, it is in God's plan that a part of the works we do are clearly visible for the advancement of His kingdom:

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Certain works are ordered by God to appear before the eyes of men to produce more fruit; others are required to appear less or to stay in the dark. For any person who serves the Lord with a sincere and a humble heart, what is on view is only the tip of the iceberg. Until the coming of Christ, there is a larger part of our life, our true self, of our works that is going to stay hidden. The glorious side of life that we have in Him is hidden from the world's eyes, but that will change.

"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:3)

Christ and His wisdom are not humanly visible and officially recognized by the common people:

"No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began." (I Corinthians 2:7)

God calls us to keep our hope strong, in the expectation of the time when all that has been done for Him "out of the limelight" will be repaid:

"But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait for it patiently." (Romans 8:25)

There is a hope for life already here on earth in Christ, a life of quality, indeed, but there is a still greater hope for the time Jesus will come back to reestablish all things and make us bring us into eternity.

It would be sad only to devote ourselves to this present life which is temporary, when everlasting life awaits us.
"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (I Corinthians 15:19)

WEAK IN THE FLESH, STRONG UNDER THE ANOINTING

We sometimes have preconceived ideas about ministers. We have the tendency to think that ministers should be supermen, but actually, naturally speaking, most ministers are quiet, unassuming men or women. If we judge according to the natural, we risk missing the blessing through men of God. Their transformation only comes as they walk in the anointing of their calling and at that time the most unassuming man becomes more assertive, and the shy person more enterprising.

"For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved but the one whom the Lord commends." (II Corinthians 10:18)

Having understood that God manifests his glory in weakness, Paul declares again to the Corinthians:

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (II Corinthians 12:9-10)

Our life is hidden by the visible weaknesses of our flesh. We are eagles in sparrow's bodies. Butterflies in the temporary form of caterpillars. Spiritually higher than the angels, but at the present time in less glorious bodies. Paul says to the apostles:

"Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world." (I Corinthians 4:13)

BUT... WHEN CHRIST COMES AGAIN

But, when Christ returns to judge the world and establish His reign, we will appear with Him. Not only us, but also the hidden works that we have done.

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time, each will receive his praises from God." (I Corinthians 4:5)

Every eye will see Christ come back SURROUNDED BY HIS SAINTS. (Revelation 1:7 and I Thessalonians 3:13) We will be established TO REIGN by His side for a thousand years on earth first, then in the new Jerusalem. (Revelation 20:44 and 22:12) In other words, today we can be a citizen of our town, scorned by many for our faith, and tomorrow mayor of the town. This is the reason the Bible tells us:
"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one subjected to it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-20)

There is a time for the born again Christians to be officially revealed as they truly are. Whereas now we are actually sons of God in infirm bodies, we will then be sons of God in glorious bodies. We will be revealed because we will be at Christ's side, but also by the vision of His resurrection, our finite, weak, carnal, corruptible bodies will have been changed into glorious (incorruptible) bodies. (I Corinthians 15:42)

"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? " (Romans 8:23-24)

Today we suffer the weaknesses of our natural bodies and everyday the flesh and spirit battle. Since the Fall, man only uses a tenth of the mental capabilities of his brain. A glorious body is a body rid of problems of the flesh, its weaknesses, disabilities, imperfections and one which has regained the remainder of his brain capabilities. A body enveloped in glory!

These bodies are more glorious than those of the angels, more glorious than any other creature in the universe. For it's a body similar to that of Christ's.

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables Him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." (Philippians 3:21)

The times and the world to come are for us, a hope at every level. Not so for the ungodly.

THE OPPOSITE FOR THE UNJUST

The opposite will be true for many people, the world and also the religious world. They are highly esteemed by everyone today and will be forgotten tomorrow. Among them are the greatest. This reality is expressed in Isaiah 14:

"The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you—all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones—all those who were kings over the nations. They will respond, they will say to you, "you also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us." All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you." (Isaiah 14:9-11)

One day an ungodly general was mocking someone who told him the dead will be raised at the second coming of Christ. The general exclaimed sarcastically, "And what will we be doing and what shall we be then?" The Christian replied, "I don't know the details, but I do know that you won't be general anymore."
The Bible tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Abraham says to the rich man,

"Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony." (Luke 16:25)

May the wicked, who dominate and oppress the weak, not endure forever! May the politicians and dictators who manipulate and enslave the people, finish one day. The mockers not mock everlastingly! The exploiters not profit forever!

"The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)..." (Isaiah 2:12)

**WHAT REALLY MATTERS**

Brothers and sisters, what really matters not what appears in what we do, but what exists in reality. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO EVALUATE ALL THE FRUITS WE HAVE--or haven't--BORNE, UNTIL JESUS RETURNS.

For example, many people receive our Bible Course, "Light for the Nations," but they share them with other afterwards, some share with friends, prayer groups, neighbors and churches. The true impact of these courses surpasses the number of names on our mailing lists.

Many years after I started recording the cassettes of my songs, that the songs were already widely known, quite frankly, in all the French speaking countries. Many people were supplied by distributors and brought them back to their own countries where hundreds of copies were made by others who couldn't afford new cassettes.

Some time ago, my wife and I were invited to Gabon for a praise gathering, involving the principle churches in the country. It was no surprise when we started the first song, to see three thousand people stand and sing the song with us. They knew all the words by heart. It was the same for most of the songs that night.

We learned afterwards that a revival had taken place several years earlier, and some Christians had brought back from France one of our cassettes, "I put my trust in You." Many people loved the songs and sent for others of our cassettes, and these songs had been an integral part throughout the duration of the revival. Thousands of Christians sung them in Gabon without us knowing anything about it.

The most remarkable thing is that when we recorded this cassette, we had been through hard times. We had no money, no church, lacked assurance, and many of our friends had given up on us. In short, we were asking ourselves whether these songs would be able to bless many people at all. Yet, here without our knowledge, God had used them beyond what we could hope; he used them to bless a nation. The testimony of hundreds of people encouraged, relieved, and converted by this cassette, reached us later.

"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again." (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

Sometimes God allows us, as with Gabon, to have an idea of the outcome of our efforts. He has brought about by his grace, but there is always a greater portion that He does not show us which is nevertheless recorded in heaven.
WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS IN HEAVEN

We must understand that for any suffering, any humiliation we have been able to endure for Christ, each time we are taken for an idiot for Him, every one is recorded in heaven.

Each time we have behaved justly, but it has not been seen or recognized, all is noted in the books God will open when we appear before Him.

"I considered that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

All the same, all that men do, even for Christ, with bad intentions--ultimately to shine and serve themselves--all is noted, for:

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

What matters is what will REMAIN because not all Christian works will remain.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

Many ministers and churches shine momentarily, a bit like comets, they pass then disappear, their works die as quickly as the light of day, but God has established us to LAST. A servant of God revealed by His Spirit must be able to influence the Christian world even after his death.

We are not here to build our kingdom, but to build God's kingdom. At one time, churches in Africa, that we had not had the time to develop relationships with and did not know very well, asked to be associated with our ministry, "Souffle Nouveau". God asked me, "What good is it to have hundreds of people on your lists here on earth if they're not listed among your assets in the books of heaven?"

We are not called to do the works for God, but to enter works prepared in advance. It's only these works which will remain and will be rewarded. Remember that what is important is what is written in the books of heaven!

THE INNER MAN

The Bible shows us that spiritual things, though they may not always be visible, grow, while the temporary, visible things, like the physical body, shrink.

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." (II Corinthians 4:16)

It is therefore important to give priority to our inner being, which is our spirit. This also means giving priority to the things of the Spirit.

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the
wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." (1 Peter 3:3-4)

The man of the world, obsessed by the desire to shine, decays from day to day on the inside. Even more the RELIGIOUS MAN.

"Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." (Luke 11:39)

SHINING OR NOT SHINING TODAY: DOESN'T MATTER MUCH!

We shouldn't believe that those who shine or are more visible than others have a more important calling. There are simply people who, by their calling--apostle, prophets, evangelists--are more on view. Yet, God will repay each one of us according to our faithfulness in the task He has given us, not whether we worked under the spotlights or in the shadows.

It is entirely possible that on the day of crediting the righteous, that all the ministers will be lined up waiting for their big reward, but God will bring a little grandmother up, who prayed daily for these ministers and say, "This lady wasn't very noticeable in the church, but she got up every night and spent time praying for you ministers. It's thanks to her prayers that your ministries had success and your churches stayed open."

There are ministers, who aren't even known, who have not appeared in the papers, who are serving in the poorest areas of the world. God only knows the price they pay.

Please note: I am not saying that there is anything wrong with being well-known or on view. One can be a great minister in the eyes of God and be well-known because the Lord wants the advancement of His gospel. I simply mean it is not necessary for us to strive by ourselves to be well-known.

ONE DAY...

One day all that is in the shadows will be revealed, the good just as the bad:

"This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares." (Romans 2:16)

God will reveal the greatness of certain things that men consider unimportant and also the pettiness of certain things considered important by men, the splendor of hidden things and the blackness of visible things. On this day, anything that was hidden but glorious will shine and with such brilliance!

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heaven, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)
CHAPTER XI

ANOINTED FOR LIGHTING UP THE DARKNESS

God has planned for the church to light the darkness. For this to happen, He has arranged an anointing for all things. He has anointed someone for each thing! Therefore, each one even if not anointed as leader is anointed to make God's kingdom operate and advance. God chooses acts through men and women whom He has anointed for the job He entrusts to them. We are anointed specifically for something.

In Isaiah 61:1, Jesus specifies, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me" because, "the Lord has anointed me TO..." to preach good news to the poor.

We are not anointed to take pleasure in our own anointing. We are anointed to put this anointing into action, in the domain in which and for which we are anointed. We are not anointed to exercise this anointing in areas which God did not call us. Many try to do this although they have good intentions and are trying to do something for God, they become tired and frustrated because it's the anointing that gives us strength. Now, don't say, "I'm not doing housework because I'm not anointed to do that!" There are some things that we must all do.

WHERE ARE THE ANOINTED?

When things don't run as they should, there is the question, "Where are the anointed?" That is, the people provided for and anointed by God to do the work.

Where is the person who is going to make a success out of something another cannot?
Who is going to go and succeed where others went and failed?
Who is going to talk with the one everybody tried to talk to without success, and who is going to turn him around? The one who is anointed to talk to him.

Aren't the anointed not there because they haven't stood up or did they stand up and we didn't recognize that the anointing was on them.

EVERY ONE HIS WAY? HIS ANOINTING

One day, I criticized and blamed myself because I didn't feel the way others feel when they preached the gospel or I didn't use the same style they did. I asked the Lord about it and he told me, "No one is asking you to proclaim the Gospel in a way that doesn't correspond to your anointing. Now, know your anointing and think about how you can do with your anointing."

If we are more gifted for writing than for approaching people in the street, we should find a means of telling the gospel by writing. If we are more gifted for painting than writing, do it by painting! Each one should become more active in the setting of his gift and anointing.

With all these potential anointings, the question arises, "Why does it often go so badly in the Church?" I suggest the developing of two points will help us from this day on, to view things differently.

A. God won't send us where a liberator isn't needed!
It is wrong to imagine that where God called me, there must be a place all ready prepared. In His plan, it is all ready, but in human reality, we are going to have to get the place ready. I'll explain.

Look at Abraham. God had destined Abraham's descendants to occupy the land of Canaan. Now, Canaan had become one of the darkest regions on earth which is the reason God had decided to drive out the inhabitants. Milk and honey flowed there, but it's not the milk and honey that greeted the children of Israel's arrival. It was the enemy armies and the fortified towns.

God doesn't want to send us where there is light. He wants to send us where there is darkness. Why? For that IS YOU!!!

"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

If the basis of our calling is the necessity for a red carpet to be laid out, we will never be successful in our destiny. Jesus came into this world of darkness. There wasn't even a place at the hostel for his birth. The path wasn't, humanly speaking, laid out in ease for him.

The first hurdle preventing people entering their calling is that they look for the easy route. They want to go where it's easy, deal with easy people, earn easy money. As a result, they don't respond to the calls of the Spirit in them because these callings call for a real death to self, "and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

Too many people think that serving God is to go where there is light. They try to shine in the light. But God said, "Let light shine out of darkness" (II Corinthians 4:6)

Why stay hidden in the light, when there is darkness which will reveal who you truly are? In the church itself, it's when we go where the darkness is that we will bring out our destiny or get out of our predicament. How many people have passed unnoticed in the church until they bring light where there was darkness? Until they make work what they hadn't managed to make work earlier?

Why is there a need for light for the sinners? For they are in darkness too! (Isaiah 42:6)

Light up the darkness! It's what characterizes Jesus' coming!

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death (or land of darkness) a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

We are called to go where there is darkness!
We are called to go where there are sinners!
We are called to go where there are people suffering!
We are called to go where there are problems!
Not where things work, but where they don't!
We want to serve God?
Look for the tempest that he calls us to calm!
Look for the wounded that he calls us to heal!
Look for the Sunday school which goes awry!
Look for the youth group which only thinks of playing around!
Look for what doesn't run smoothly, and show, prove your anointing!
Look for the darkness, the darkness will light up!
Look for OUR darkness, no the works of darkness, those WE are called to light up!
Where God sends us isn't always going to be where we want to go at first. God sent David to Saul's house, Moses to Pharaoh, Joseph to prison, etc.

We want to help a minister? Don't look for one who is at the top; look for the one who isn't and who needs help!

I would go further. Do we want to be married? Look for the woman who is hurt, who needs a husband to show her that not all men are hurtful! Look for the imperfect man who needs you to help him become a man (led by God, obviously, and not by simply feeling pity).

**BE A LIGHT FOR THE OTHERS!**

Someone will say, "Brother pray that I change my work, where I am, the men tell dirty stories and that annoys me." Here we must a witness, a light. Jesus came for the sick:

"On hearing this, Jesus said to them, It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to the righteous but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

If the Sunday school doesn't work well, it's an opportunity God gives us to make a success of our life! If we are anointed for that, of course! I didn't say just anybody must go to any calling, on the contrary. If we don't know where we are anointed to be, we should give our attention to many things and we will find our calling.

The point I want to make here is that if we are anointed and we don't venture in the midst of darkness, our anointing won't fully develop, won't be any use to anyone and one day God will ask us what we did with the talent (anointing) he gave us.

B. There is no anointing revealed which doesn't first have to be revealed itself.

"In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus." (The king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it into writing." (Ezra 1)

Because the spirit of Cyrus, that God calls His anointed in Isaiah 45:1 has been revealed this man could become a liberator of the Hebrews and men in general. Cyrus differed from all the kings of the time because he was raised with the desire to put an end to all forms of oppression. It's an extraordinary case in history. Why did he become an extraordinary case? For his spirit was ROUSED!

The problem isn't that it hadn't been planned to anoint him to provide for the needs of this world and the church; it isn't that we aren't anointed to enter into our destiny, but... there are few people who are ROUSED.

We can read it differently. There are too many people asleep meaning unaware of who they are, not ready to serve where they should, to pay the price! God wants to awaken certain men, for through them He will stir up a whole people:

"So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD, Almighty, their God." (Haggai 1:14)
People stirred up put themselves to work! People who have put themselves to work are roused. They heard the spirit.

Put yourself to work to build the Church.
Put yourself to work to not stay enslaved by whatever it is.
Put yourself to work to improve your relationship as a couple!
Put yourself to work to change the course of things where there is darkness.
Even if you are the only one to do it! Everyone must give an account of himself.

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

A little while ago I went through a period of great discouragement. I had had enough of trying to raise an army that did not want to be raised. As a result, I had let up in certain areas so I decided to take a break. For a while, I would go to work in the mornings and then in the afternoons I would relax by the Sea with my Bible, my exercise book, a biro, and something to read. There, everyday, the Lord spoke to me. He revived my soul, my vision.

Today this vision is stronger than ever and doesn't rest on what others do or don't do, but on God and what I am called to do. Whether people get involved or not, I do. Whether they come to pray or not, I come to pray. Whether or not they support my ministry financially or not, I will go all the same where God guides me, for my assurance is in Him... for my spirit has awakened.

I know I am anointed! Why am I anointed? To be an apostle to the French speaking countries. No matter what I fulfill the call of God on my life. What good is living if it's the wretched life of someone who has missed his destiny.

**IT'S BETTER TO DIE IN ONES DESTINY THAN LIFE OUTSIDE IT!**

Whenever want to wake the others up should stir up himself first!

"**Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**" (Ephesians 5:14)

He who lets himself be stirred by God's spirit, will become a light, for he has himself been lit up. Christ wants to shine on us--on what we are, why we are here on this earth--on the church in which we should serve, what place we should occupy, etc.

If it was God's responsibility to wake us up, then it would be God's when we let up, but that is not the case:

"**No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins."** (Isaiah 64:7)

God calls on His people to awake for it's our responsibility to let ourselves be stirred by God.

"**Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength."** (Isaiah 52:1)

**THE MAN (OR WOMAN) THAT GOD SEeks**

The whole earth has passed under Satan's domination (prince of the world) so the battles which yield both good and bad, yield from them men they inspire and use each one to release his power. The bad spreads down here, for men do wrong.
They are instruments for releasing Satan's power. A sinner can do a lot of wrong:

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but a sinner destroys much good."  (Ecclesiastes 9;18)

Similarly, God needs instruments to liberate his power in great proportions. Only the anointed ones, that is the people God has anointed for a specific purpose, can cause Christ's victory to reveal itself and stay! For it's the anointing which breaks the yokes.  (Isaiah 10;27)

It's not the man without the anointing, but it isn't the anointing without the man either for the anointing needs to remain on a man, an anointed man.

Often, the power of this anointing isn't set free as it should be. NOT BECAUSE GOD DOESN'T WANT TO LIBERATE IT, but because He doesn't find the instruments, a particular man to set it free:

As Ezekiel 22:30 says,

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none."

We find in this verse, a set of truths concerning the calling that God addresses us with: Where does God seek a man? "Among them" This among them means: in the midst of where we live, in our church, in our group. not in the team of Benny Hinn so that he will come to save our country in our place, not amongst the ministers already naturally established, AMONG THEM, AMONG US!

Often, we look elsewhere while God searches IN OUR MIDST. We do everything the wrong way.

We aren't supposed to run away from complex situations. If there is illness and it makes us indignant, it'll be necessary to become an instrument in God's hand to give healing to the people. If we are disgusted to see the things demons do to people, we are going to work at starting to put them to flight.

God is looking for a man. It seems he had difficulty, in Ezekiel's time finding just one. There are many men, but God is searching for a man (or woman) that he is going to provide for and who is going to let themselves be used by God. Men, or women, who adhere to certain standards of behavior. He seeks men roused enough! Crazy enough! Original enough! Available enough!

Jesus gave this testimony to Paul,

"Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."  (Acts 9:15)

The liberation and the raising of people--a revival--are preceded by the raising of certain men. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets and the apostles arose to be instruments in God's hands and CHANGE THE COURSE OF THINGS.
GOD'S CHAMPIONS

"God said to him, Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob, your name will be Israel." (Genesis 35:10)

God changed the name of Jacob, after his struggle with an angel (Esau's angel according to Talmadic commentators). Many definitions are given for the word Israel among them, soldier of God, God dominates, fighter for God, strong or powerful joust, victor of God, prince of God, and champion of God. The point is not that Israel overcame God, but that he overcame in the name of God and for Him. He is a Champion of God.

Despite his mistakes of the past and his imperfections of the present, he didn't let himself be disheartened and overwhelmed. He didn't accept a normal human fate. He imposed, a law from God better than that which even an angel tried to impose on him. He didn't accept a destiny which came to an abrupt end. He imposed another destiny: that of a brave hero.

This battle, which he didn't come out of unharmed either, made him humble. The next Jacob limped. When he appeared in front of his brother Esau, although he'd just won an enormous spiritual battle, he was full of humility. The brave heroes aren't always the ones who have the greatest "airing." Being strong and being humble go together.

GOD IS LOOKING FOR CHAMPIONS

One day the Lord asked me, "Do you want to be my champion?"

He poses this question to many of his children.

The devil has many champions. Who are they? A whole group of speakers, writers, singers, politicians, film producers, television personalities who influence crowds in the wrong direction.

The three greatest champions of the devils who helped shape the way of thinking of men and women of our world have been Carl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Charles Darwin. The wrong these people have been able to do by their writings is enormous. God feels a holy jealousy in full view of these people ready to move heaven and earth for the unjust causes. A large part of His Church upon whom He has confided such a glorious and noble mission, numbering thousands of insecure people, without knowledge of their privileges in Christ, suffering in life, always a distance behind what the world does.

God is looking for people who are going to be His Champions at the cost of their life if necessary. His champions are the men and women who will accept to try again to walk on earth in dignity, standing for what the Lord is. They will accept being powerful.

It's more than one person, more than what we feel or don't feel that is at stake. It's the honor of God. A champion is there to bring the colors to the one he represents and overcome in His name and for his honor.

God seeks champions, anointed people for lighting up the darkness. Do we want to be one of these men or women?

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)
CHAPTER XII
EVERYONE HAS HIS WAVE

This chapter is specifically for those who think they have missed the timing of God or think that their time hasn't come yet but is tired of waiting.

THE WAVES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The action of the Holy Spirit is like the movement of the sea, blown by the wind. The coming of a revival takes place in several stages. These stages are like waves which break on the shore, each one stronger than the previous as the wind increases in strength.

"If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea." (Isaiah 48:18)

These verses about sea allude to the movement of waves which roll one after another, hurling themselves successively onto shore. If we listen the Lord, He will make blessing come, salvation, healing, the anointing and revival. These will come as the waves of the sea which break progressively more and more force until we are submerged.

"Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me." (Psalm 42:7)

A WAVE ARRIVES

Between each wave there is a lull that separates them. Each wave is an action of the Holy Spirit and constitutes one of the stairways which leads to the culminating point of the revival.

Ministers, churches, and particular moments are used for riding each wave. There have been waves of teaching, characterized by Kenneth E. Hagin and the Word of Faith movement, a prophetic wave with Rick Joyner, and many others.

A wave characterized by the new wine spread abroad, principally through the ministry of Rodney Howard-Browne and John Arnot and the Toronto Church. At the same time in France, the Macon Church and several ministers were used to spread this anointing through the country. Another wave has been poured out in Pensacola, Florida, centered more on repentance. Each wave is characterized by the accent the Holy Spirit puts on it. Whenever a new wave arrives, it doesn't stop the effects of the one before it. IT ADDS TO IT!!!

ADVICE TO SURFERS

Other waves are coming and one of them is for me..... one of them is for you! What we did in the past, which has been more or less fruitful, is not much compared with what we are called to do in the future!
"A wave is coming at the moment," the Lord told me. It's a huge wave, bigger than all that have gone before it. When I was preaching in the meeting at Souffle Nouveau in Nice, I hadn't planned on talking about it, but the Holy Spirit showed me, in that meeting, a vision of a powerful wave which was coming. I saw it as it were a rectangular window before my eyes in which I could see this wave coming, ready to rush at us!

I believe the destructive tsunami which hit the Indian Ocean is a negative equivalent and a prophetic image of this wave of revival which is going to break, not to destroy or kill, but to restore and bring life.

Who is going to ride this wave? Several ministers and Christians who have been predestined for it. And more specifically, those among them are to be prepared to surf.

**STRONGER, FURTHER, HIGHER**

My wife and I in the past 15 years, have by God's grace developed a ministry as much in song as in teaching and preaching the Word, and the establishment of new works. We have seen the fruits of this and continue to do so. We have had glorious times and others not so good. Many people look at us as having succeeded and would like to think we have achieved what we wanted. Nevertheless, we have the feeling of not having achieved half of what we had hoped for in our heart.

When we bring a soul to the Lord, it's often a thousand we want to bring! When someone is healed, the sight of those still suffering prevents us rejoicing as we would like. When the anointing is in manifestation, it always seems that it doesn't manage to flow fully, and it's frustrating. Several times, I pray with Julia and cry before God wishing to be more filled to give more, wishing only to serve God fully.

How can we be happy flying like a sparrow when we have an eagle inside us? The sparrows fly above many people. Hallelujah! many of those lying out on the lawn would be happy just flying like a sparrow, but sparrows like us can't be happy looking below and delighting ourselves. They have to look up above, where the eagles fly and pray to God, "Make me an eagle and bring me up there."

How many of those reading these lines can share with us these same feelings.

"..... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

There is a time to get up and build our nest on high.

**WHEN DOORS DON'T OPEN**

There are times in life when door don't open because the devil keeps them shut. We are called to break them down in Jesus name. There are other times when the doors stay shut even though we've tried hard to open them BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOD'S TIME TO OPEN THEM. We knew they must open one day, but it seems that day hasn't come yet.

I've found myself in just such situations recently where a little spark was enough to open a big door. Other doors in my life opened, but needed more than a spark. There a spark would normally have been enough yet they remained shut. I knew it was God's plan for my life they should open, but a voice seemed to say to me, "What I want to give you, I don't want to give you
now, not in this situation, but I will give it to you later." It reminds me of what was said to the Israelites when they made their way towards the land of Canaan and were tempted to engage in certain battles and seize certain lands:

"Then the Lord said to me, "do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given that land to the descendants of Lots as a possession." (Deuteronomy 2:9)

The Lord told me once, "I won't give you any share with some ministers who are having success in their ministry at the moment, for it's not your job to stand beside them---whether for singing or preaching--it's their wave, your own wave will come later.

Wait for it. I am keeping you, with many others for the later wave."

What should we do during this time then? Get ready and pray for doors to open when the time comes. Paul asks the Colossians:

"And pray for us, too, that God may open up a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains." (Colossians 4:3)

Certain doors seem closed for while but will open one day for those who persevere where God breaks the "iron bolts and the brass doors."

WHEN DOORS OPEN

Our wave is coming. There is a time for doors to open in a person's life.

The Hebrews knew exile and slavery up to the time that God aroused Cyrus to enable them to regain their homeland in greater number and rebuild Jerusalem:

"This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus (put your name) whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armour, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron." (Isaiah 45:1)

There comes a time in the life of those who persevere when the doors open, that is to say, the Cyruses appear, the encounters we must make are made, the harvests of what we have sown and wait for appear. Expect the doors which have been shut to open miraculously and be ready to rush in.

THOSE WHO ARE TIRED

Many people in body of Christ are tired, but I would like to encourage them that the situation is not lost.

Jesus told the church at Philadelphia:

"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. (Revelation 3:8)
Despite our weaknesses despite our financial worries, our illnesses, God has seen us persevere and will open a door for us that no one will be able to close.

**PREPARE TO SURF**

We should prepare to surf or get the tools of ministry ready. If we are called to teach, prepare the teaching material. If we have a calling to write songs, prepare our musical abilities and singing. Many people will miss the wave because they are both trying to prepare to surf and surf at the same time and that is not possible. We must prepare beforehand.

To prepare to surf is to prepare our character. What enable a man to hold steadfast in times of revival isn't the miracles he performs but it's the character he has developed during his years as a Christian--compassion, patience, discernment, wisdom, love, faith.

We will be able to stay to surf on the foundation of the healthiness of our spiritual being. It's a wave that is going to show its real solidity not to show all we've invested.

It will be time for some to surf or walk on the water on Jesus command.
CHAPTER XIII

FOR A TIME LIKE THIS

God set up in Esther's life a set of circumstances which brought her change from a position of uncertain repute to that of a queen. He allowed her to reach this position so that she should ONE DAY be in the right place at the right time to say the right things. Mordecai told her:

"And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:1)

BLESSED TO BLESS!

If God planned to bless her, it was above all to make her a source of blessing for a large number of people. Nobody is blessed to live his life selfishly in his own corner. We are blessed to be a blessing to others. The more God blesses us the more he expects us to bless others.

The blessing carries a responsibility!

Esther could have allowed her new status to make her forget her responsibilities. The world was at her fingertips. She had all she needed, no more worries. Suddenly it was necessary to risk losing everything to solve a major problem.

Mordecai warned her not to forget why she came to be queen.

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish." (Esther 4:14)

Many people have lost their blessing because they have selfishly gotten accustomed to it and take it for granted. Some are blessed financially and hold on to the money rather than blessing their church and the poor. They will lose everything one day. We are blessed for a reason and if that reason isn't done, there is no reason for the blessing to remain.

A HIGHEST POINT

I think our destiny is supposed to bring us to a particular place to a HIGHEST POINT for which we've been preparing.

The climax for David was to become king, for Solomon to build the temple, and for Joseph to save his family.

"But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." (Genesis 45:7)

Joseph understood the greater purpose for his ending up in Egypt and it was him who consoled his brothers later:
"And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."  (Genesis 45:5)

Many people have wasted their time because they have not used their experiences, their trials, their failures as well as successes.  It's as if they've built stairs to go above frustration yet they don't get there right away.

Shouldn't we live today as its aim to bring us to this period in which we are called and the fruits we are going to bring are going to be transformed.  If there is a particular highest point awaiting us, there are several such highest points on the road to our destiny.  Each one is preceded by a time of preparation.

David had been a shepherd in training to be a shepherd for all Israel later.  Moses first came out of Egypt so that he could get Egypt out of him.  It's one thing to quit a system which has oppressed us.  It's another for the system to leave you.  Many pastors have left movements which stifled them yet have done nothing but recreate that same type of structure somewhere else.

For certain people their climax may be the supreme sacrifice of their life to advance the gospel.  As Jesus asked of several of His children at the church on Ephesus:

"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.  I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.  Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."  (Revelation 2:10)

"Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made spotless until the time of the end."  (Daniel 11:35)

The death of Stephen certainly had a strong impact on the life of a young man called Saul of Tarsus (Acts 7:55-59).  In the spiritual world there had been a repercussion which had been too much for Paul himself.  A climax is always a source of great blessing.  Most men and women never reach this highest point.  They are knocked down or diverted well before this time.

**THE TIME OF PREPARATION IS LONGER**

The preparation times are longer than the times of this new dimension.  In the same way that the process of growth of what we plan takes longer than the harvest itself.  For the cicadas, the larval stage lasts a very long time (about 4 years) compared with the life span of an insect, which varies from one to six weeks.  Years of preparation for singing one summer.

Several great revivals were awaited and prayed for decades and only lasted a short time.  The Azusa Street Revival lasted three years, but the impact of those three years continue until today.

Jesus lived thirty three and a half years, only 3 and a half of which were ministry, during which he established His church, overcame Satan and his temptations, died for our sins, then was raised from the dead!  His climax came after only three and a half years of ministry with his death and resurrection:

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say?  Father, save me from this hour.  No it was for this very reason I came to this hour.  Father, glorify your name!"  (John 12:27)

Why did you come to this earth?
Why have you been saved?
Why have you received your gift?
Why have you received your blessing?
For what time, what period, what climax?

BORN FOR A TIME LIKE THIS!

I personally have a very strong feeling of destiny. The songs, the courses and the books I've written and the trip I've made, the woman I married, the children I have, the people around--all have a higher purpose!

I think I've lived until now in preparation for things to come. I don't have the impression that the reason I am who I am, do what I do, and acquire what I have, has yet appeared.

I know that one day I'm going to say, (I've already seen it in the spirit). "I was born for a time like this!"

That isn't supposed be only peculiar to me and a few visionaries.

There is a notion entirely Biblical that we are coming to a higher point.

We are on the move and we must evolve in our course, which will bring us constantly higher and further, to the highest point.

The raising of the dead is a highest point, but before that there is, as for Esther, a specific time for our life to be useful to God's people, as at no other time.

Each person has a strong feeling of under achievement in him. Some even feel as though they've not even started yet. Get going! Begin! Remember we are blessed to be a blessing.

Make sure you advance along the path. What we do today may not have much to do with what we'll be doing at the highest point, but it helps us get there.

FOR OTHERS...

And there are those who are trapped in their own conceit or personal blessing, and won't realize that they have a specific divine appointment and will miss it.

Jesus said to Jerusalem that she had not recognized the time of His visitation. Without speaking of all those who hadn't recognized Him Messiah, while they must have been living the opposite house.

The divine appointments did will not impose itself on us. We recognize them when we search for them. Many Christians aren't ready to acknowledge why and where they're supposed to go. God is likely to move on someone else to do the work they were called to do.

Remember the words of Mordecai to Esther:

".... For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise form another place, but you and your father's family will perish." (Esther 4:14)

We must protect our destiny or it may go up in smoke.....

"If it (what he has built) is burned up, he will suffer loss, he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." (1 Corinthians 3:15)
IT'S FOR A TIME LIKE THIS THAT...

A season of particular time is just ahead. It's going to reveal a strong army which rises up to spread the message of salvation in the world as never before. The Bible indeed says that in the end times, the Good News will have been preached absolutely everywhere.

These times are going to correspond to the climax of the life of thousands and thousands of Christians. They are going to have to take up their calling to permit the greatest revival of all time to invade the earth.

THERE WON'T BE A PRICE TOO HIGH FOR THAT

Several are going to recognize these times and are going to say, "It's for a time like this that we were born, that we have been prepared, and which we have lived up until now."

One will say, "It's for a time like that that I am here to give shelter to these abandoned children."

Another will say, "It's for a time like that I am in this church to give support to these homosexuals and lesbians who appear at the church door for whom most of the people don't know what to do."

Yet another will say, "It's for a time like this that I've prospered financially so I can help support the spread of the gospel."

Another, "It's for a time like this that I've suffered what I have so that I can help those going through the same things."

Again, "It's for a time like this that I've practiced my musical instrument, that I've been to Bible School, that I've moved...."

And even, "It's for a time like this that I'm going to give my life."

Your time to make the light that is in you shine, as it has never shined before is coming. Are you ready?