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SPIRITUAL STATURE

Releasing the Fullness of Your
Redemptive Provisions

CLINTON OBUDI KI MAXSON

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WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR AND THE BOOK

The plague of babyhood Christianity has so incapacitated the church we are being led by spiritual babies who wake up in the morning only to crave carnal indulgences. This is the woe that has befallen the church.

Ecclesiastes 10:16 KJV

“Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning”!

We cannot overemphasize the place and importance of growth in accessing our inheritance whether collectively or individually.

Pastor Clinton Maxson, directed by the Holy Spirit, has thrown some light on this subject in this inspiring book.

I see this book as God’s response to many of the current challenges we are experiencing in the body of Christ. It is a must read for individual Christians as well as for group Bible studies.

Paulson Clinton Halliday

Presiding Bishop TGACC, Cape town
South Africa

It takes maturity to know what you are not and to become enthusiastic about who God has made you to be in Christ. God's best for your life is concealed in what you have been made to be in Christ. Max Clinton has provided applicable insights to make your journey to spiritual maturity a very profitable one.

Pastor Ose Imiemohon

The Brook Church

Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

Spiritual maturity is requisite for becoming and accessing all that God has ordained for you. Pastor Clinton Maxson's new book on Spiritual Stature will challenge you and show you how to attain and maintain spiritual stature in Christ. This book has inspired me greatly. I know it will help you in your walk with God. The teachings and insights in this book will cause a paradigm shift in your thinking about your identity in Christ and will propel you into a deeper walk with the Holy Spirit. My friend, Pastor Clinton, is a phenomenal leader and a gift to the body of Christ.

Toyin Fakorede

Author and Lead Pastor, Breath of Life Faith Ministries

Bournemouth, United Kingdom

I first met Pastor Clinton Maxson in 2005 as a youth corps member serving in Katsina State. Of course, he wasn't an ordained minister then but his passion and zeal for the things of God made some people refer to him as pastor. I was a Batch B corps member, and he was Batch A. What caught my attention back then was his unbridled love for God and the things of the Kingdom.

Having the privilege of living in the same family house with him then, I saw him study the scriptures and spending time in prayer daily; not because he had a ministering appointment, but there was an obvious pursuit of kingdom purpose and a fervour to know God more. As such, it is no surprise that this book, *Spiritual Stature: Releasing the Fullness of Your Redemptive Provisions*, comes as his maiden book.

We live in a time of many evil occurrences, especially with innocent people dying. This may leave question marks in the heart of some believers if God truly cares about His children being constantly harassed and tormented by the Devil. With the rising number of homeless and starving people globally, how can these understand and enjoy God's provisions? Sadly, there are believers who have accepted that these deaths, hardship, lack, and other calamities are God's way of punishing a wicked generation. This line of thought is a pure display of ignorance about the word of God. So, this book is a clarion call to believers to take full advantage of their position in Christ. It is also a reminder that God would require an account of what we did with what he has committed to our care.

With an emphasis on God's provision for His children, Pastor Clinton explains how everything we would ever need in life from God has already been provided. It already exists in the spiritual realm and believers must build spiritual capacity to receive, enjoy and manage these blessings. Again, this is a revelation as documented in 2 Peter 1:3 which many believers are yet to come to terms with. God has made provisions available for us even before we ask for it. God takes no delight in his children suffering and being in lack or barely having enough to get by each day. Abundance is a lifestyle of the kingdom.

I therefore recommend this book first to all believers to share from the divine wisdom the Holy Spirit has imparted on Pastor Clinton in a time like this when it seems like the world is in both physical and spiritual penury. For the children of the kingdom like you and I, the world system should not determine our wealth. I even much more recommend this book for those tired of living a life of destitution and so are eager to move into the level of enjoying supernatural provisions and lifestyle.

Emike Oyemade

Author and Visionary of Wise Walk Ministry
Lagos, Nigeria

While prolonged spiritual infancy of believers is a real issue requiring attention in Christendom today, Pastor Clinton Maxson challenges readers with the truth of the word of God and presents proactive steps in attaining spiritual growth and maturity. May the Holy Spirit use this book as a tool to awaken and enlighten many hearts to live their life to the fullest for God.

Thomas Mathew

Care Pastor,
King's Community Church
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK.

“As new-born babes, DESIRE the sincere milk of the Word that ye may GROW thereby” 1 Peter 2:2 (Emphasis Mine).” Continuous spiritual growth is the expectation of our heavenly Father for all His children. Spiritual growth results from solid spiritual nutrition and exercise. However, it is also based on a strong, undying desire. I have known the author for over two

decades. He is a man with desire, hunger, and appetite for God and I have seen him grow steadily in the things of the kingdom of God. I pray and believe that everyone who reads this book will be infused with that same desire and passion for God. Well done Pastor Clinton Maxson! A great book this is!

Rev. Raymond John-Jack

Lead Pastor, Destiny Household Ministry
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

SPIRITUAL STATURE:

The development of our Spiritual stature in Christ is non-negotiable to living optimally in the provision made for us through our inheritance in God by Christ Jesus. The extent to which we grow determines the extent to which we can access this divine inheritance. Pastor Clinton, with tremendous insight and depth in the scriptures through the grace of God upon his life, is placing in your hands what it takes to have a full grasp of the provision made for us as children of light, and how we can position ourselves to live the best He Has intended for us by divine inheritance. I recommend this great material to you and not just you alone, but to everyone around you, for I am sure that this book will do so much good to you than all the books you have ever laid your hands on. Enjoy every bit of it.

Pastor Amos Ojeba.

RCCG, Success Parish, Lagos Province 55.
Ikorodu, Lagos. Nigeria.

The second most important thing in the life of a believer after salvation is spiritual development and growth. This is true because

after a child is born, the next thing the parents want to see is growth in physical and mental stature in the child. Peter, in His epistle to the church, admonished us to desire the sincere milk of the word so we may grow. Physical food feeds your body and induces physical development and growth in stature. In the same way, the knowledge of the word of God is the bread of the human spirit.

It concerns Heaven that believers develop and grow just like every earthly parent would like to see their children grow. As the author, in response to the heart of God the father, unveils timeless truths which would stir you towards spiritual development and growth, your part is to give heed and put to practice the instructions of grace as presented in this book. I would like to endorse this book for anyone who desires to find reality in life and move on higher spiritually.

Pastor Emmanuel Ogbechie

Divine Representatives Ministries

Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Having read the original manuscript, I wish there were books like these when I first started my Christian journey that can show the expectations of heaven and what we stand to benefit. I encourage all to read this book; a young believer would receive instruction, those that have been in Christ would also receive encouragement. There is something for everyone in this book. Read, digest and apply the truths gleaned. It would profit you immensely.

Jackson Adebisi

Springhill Ministries.

Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

I used to wonder how a person who has been a believer for over a year, could still be childlike or juvenile in their understanding of basic spiritual realities. And then I observed similar behaviours and attributes with some Christians who have spent many years in the faith. Then wisdom came to me: it was not the years in the Lord, but the moments with the Lord that produced effective and mature Christians. Pastor Clinton's book is a clarion call to all believers to rise up and become what we were called to be: sons, heirs, and administrators of the glorious grace of God. His chapter on the role of consistent fellowship and intimacy with God in building spiritual capacity is poignant, because it is in His presence that we are moulded and fashioned into His image. As it is written: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." - 2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV. I pray that as many as would read and take hold of these truths that Pastor Clinton shares in this book, will receive the grace to pursue maturity in Christ, to the glory of God.

Chika Edeh

Pastor at Vinespring Church, Westhill
Aberdeenshire, Scotland UK

This book is a must read for all. Pastor Clinton is a highly spiritual and devoted man of God. I knew him 15 years ago. The fire in his bones has never waned. He has again shown us how to maintain and secure our inheritance in Christ by knowing our spiritual stature. A copy of this book in your library is worth more than thousands of gold bars.

PST Omoregbe Osas Global BSc, MBA

Resident Pastor with Winners Chapel Worldwide.
Rivers State, Nigeria

A simple way to pinpoint the valuable import of this book is to consider one of the highlighted incidences found in 1 Samuel 16: 6-7:

“When they had come, he looked on Eliab [the eldest son] and said, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him’. But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Look not on his appearance or at the height of his stature, for I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart’”. - 1 Samuel 16: 6-7

In the scripture above, a major inheritance was at stake. Someone was to be crowned king among the sons of Jesse. Only one! Eliab, being the firstborn, seemed to have naturally met all the required qualifications, but Alas! God rejected him. Yes, (from physical attributes) he had it all and was a qualified candidate by being a son of Jesse, but being a qualified son wasn't enough as a factor in determining whose head God would pour the anointing oil that directly signifies the enormous responsibility of leading an entire nation of God's children. Being born again is not enough and just like the birth of any baby doesn't guarantee his or her future without growth, we can never underrate or underemphasize the place of growing (not only physically but spiritually) and waxing strong in the Spirit as we read of Samuel, Moses, Samson, and even Jesus. No man can carry the oil of God without the requisite spiritual capacity and stamina to sustain its weight. You cannot live a life corroded and perforated by sin and hope to be the vessel in which God would pour His precious Grace to bless the earth. It is indeed time to move beyond spiritual birth to

spiritual growth and develop the spiritual capacity needed to carry the spiritual responsibility of God's purpose for our lives. Indeed, it is as grow up to Him (the full spiritual stature of Christ) in all things that we find ourselves enjoying all the inheritance already made available for us in Him.

Pastor Clinton Maxson did a good job here. Be inspired as you read!

Segun Coker

Visionary (School Of Virtue)

Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

Some have said repeatedly that the spiritual realm controls the physical realm. This statement is nothing but the truth. Living a purpose-driven life would be a lot easier if people can understand and accept this as a statement of fact and live by it. This book therefore, is a priceless expression of the spiritual revelations and understanding of the author that explores diverse examples that buttress the reliability of the aforementioned statement. In writing this book, it is evident that the author poured out his heart as it relates to his walk with God over the years. I am particularly excited by the citing of the formative years of our Lord and Saviour - Jesus Christ and His growth in wisdom and favour with God and man as a reference and the most important reason for us as humans to desire to grow spiritually. Growth, as mentioned by the author, is a self-made choice and not automatic. If we cue the perfect exemplary life of Jesus who worked His life into the fullness of His destiny by consciously developing Himself spiritually, with legacies as evidence, then we have no excuse not to follow in His steps.

In this book, Pastor Clinton did not only give his opinion on the need for spiritual maturity but clearly explains the 'how to', and with these shares of knowledge, I am passionately convinced that this is a life-changing piece. Read with motive and objective.

Jimmy Olulami

JOT Visions Int'l,
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

In this book, laced with the secrets of the Christian faith, Pastor Clinton delves into a major prerequisite for Christians to access God, which is spiritual growth and maturity.

The author emphasizes the need for Christians to strive towards spiritual growth, rather than make excuses for not pressing onto the mark.

These fascinating reads envelope ideas that may not be common in man's quest and pursuit for a place in his Creator's heaven.

It eloquently summarizes the need to find a meaning for God's purpose for our lives and soul.

It opens a new vista of knowledge on spirituality and aptly captures the drive towards perfection.

Alambo Datonye

Broadcast Journalist/
Head of News, Radio Nigeria's Creek 106. 5FM, Yenagoa,
Bayelsa State, Nigeria

This book is a “must read” and “read again and again” for every child of God. The Lord has used Pastor Clinton Maxson to challenge God’s people to **“grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ”** (2 Peter 3:18) so, that their strength will not fail in the days of adversity. The Lord’s expectation is that **“we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST”** (Ephesians 4:3). Christ is our standard and perfect example. The best we can be is to be like Christ, and until we are like Christ, we are not the best: 2 Corinthians 3:18, **“but we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”**.

This is a book for all season. It is a great inspiration to as many as will have the opportunity of reading it. It contains refreshing statements of eternal truth as stated in Daniel 11:32b; **“the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits”**.

I have known the author as someone who loves the Lord and has been consistently serving in the Vineyard. The message in this book is borne out of his consistent walk with God and I know that the Lord will use it to encourage all who will drink from this well of wisdom. May the Lord ignite His fire within you and keep it burning as you read through this book. I eagerly endorse and recommend this book to all, which is to the glory of God and the blessing of His people.

Uyi Igunma Esq.

A Christian Lawyer, Advisor, Teacher

And Marriage Counsellor, Legal Advisor and
Men's President Assemblies of God, Katsina State Area
And Grand Patron NCCF Katsina State, Nigeria

A timely book for those that desire to build spiritual capacity....
You will discover practical tools to aid your spiritual journey...

Temple E. Odoko

Presiding Pastor, House of Destiny
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Dedication

I dedicate this work to the first love of my life and being, God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that has designed, enabled, and instructed me to write this book. It is also dedicated to my second love, my heartbeat, and the desire of my life designed and ordained by God to be my helpmeet to fulfil my God-given destiny. She is my lovely wife, Mrs Nneka Juddy Clinton-Maxson. And to our lives' expressions, our beloved children: Splendor Tamunoye Clinton-Maxson, and Soar Tamunonemi Clinton-Maxson. Lastly, to everyone who will read this book, may you all always enjoy to the full extent the divine and rich provisions of the Inheritance of the saints in Christ Jesus made available to us by the finished work of Christ in your quest for spiritual maturity.

Acknowledgements

No great feat is possible in life without the sacrifice and selfless services of people within and outside one's circle of influence. The publication of this book has been made possible because of the indelible input by numerous people that God has blessed my life with. I will like to express my gratitude to the following in no particular order: Mr Onyeka Chiedu, Dr Precious Aribiba and Mrs Miebaka Maxson (my Mom) for their generosity towards the publication of the book; Mr Alambo Datonye Fred for the initial edit of the draft manuscript, Mr Johnson Opigo for his selfless work in the thorough editing of the manuscript; Dr Glenn Arekion, Pastor Toyin Fakorede, Pastor Mrs Emike Oyemade and Pastor Chuks Okafor for their timely suggestions as regards my choice of publisher; Mr Jesse Fubara-David and Mr Benson Enigheno for their honest support and suggestions when I told them about this project; Pastor Tunji Akinola and the entire Leadership Council of International House of His Presence (IHHP) for your brotherliness and faith in the call of God upon my life and for providing the platform in order for me to continue to express the divine deposits of God within me.

Last, my profound appreciation and gratitude goes out to everyone who took the pains to read through my draft manuscript despite their tight and busy schedules and made meaningful suggestions, and those who went a step further to provide endorsements for the book. May our Father in heaven be continually gracious to you all and to His call and work in your hands.

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Forward

Growth is a vital sign of life with any living thing. Almost every spectrum of life expects growth: parents expect it from their children; the society expects people to grow; institutions of most societies demand growth of its citizens; schools, workplaces, and institutions of government. These are underlying attributes the Creator of the heavens and the earth place upon every one of His living creations. This is more so required of man made in God's image and the crowning beauty of God's creation. God expects every man to grow.

One of the major features of growth with humanity is that it often comes with responsibility, by which God expects us to develop from being dependent to becoming responsible for our lives, our loved ones, our spheres of influence and the society at large. It is such that man will have to take up the nature and function of His Creator in order to be able to achieve this.

Inherent in the first man, Adam, was the ability to represent God on earth. However, this ability was a by-product of remaining connected to his source, God, and cultivating the nature of God in his life. While this lasted, Adam could do unusual things in the Garden, regardless of the presence of his arch-enemy, the Devil, in the Garden. He named creatures, and he had the whole environment and the creatures under his control.

The author has gone to great lengths to take the reader through what God requires in order to have such stature and influence, the benefits of such stature, the challenges that may come with having a standing with and for the Lord. The author

also shows that victory is always possible to those who love the Lord, who walk with Him and in His will.

This is a profound material that can enable anyone who cares to study and dares to apply the knowledge offered, both to gain spiritual stature and also to manifest the same towards victory in every facet of life. I am persuaded that humanity will fulfil the divine mandate on her better with the application of the knowledge on offer in this book.

Tunji Akinola,

Author and Senior Pastor,

International House of His Presence (IHHP), &

Host of Kingdom Agenda TV Broadcast, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Preface

This book is a by-product of a clear instruction by the Holy Spirit on Wednesday, November 28th, 2018 while I was in a mid-week Teaching Service (Discovery Service) at the Church (IHHP) where I serve as one of the associate pastors.

The Holy Spirit asked me to teach His children, the body of Christ (The Church) and everyone who will become part of the body what it takes to access, facilitate, release, and enjoy the divine provisions of the inheritance of the saints in the light in Christ Jesus made available to each one of us by the blood of His Cross.

“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock - His Church, purchased with His own blood - over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders” - Acts 20:28 (NLT).

Having decided in recent times to always listen and obey the instructions of the Holy Spirit and do whatever He may ask of me to do, and in order for me not to grieve Him and declare like Apostle Paul did in Acts 20:27 (AMP), *“For I never shrank or kept back or fell short from declaring to you the whole purpose and plan and counsel of God”*. I have yielded to obey His instructions as regards the writing of this book and other subsequent books as the Holy Spirit may instruct from time to time.

This book, *Spiritual Stature – Releasing the Fullness of Your Redemptive Provisions* explores and unveils to you the rich and unlimited eternal resources and provisions of heaven which are

graciously available and accessible to each and every New Testament believer in Christ by the precious, eternal, and efficacious blood of His Cross. These eternal redemptive provisions, as you will come to discover through the contents of this book, becomes your daily reality and experience principally on the crucible of your spiritual growth and understanding; notwithstanding that the gift of salvation is the primary key that granted us access and right to the divine inheritance of the saints in light.

Your new creation status in Christ Jesus delivered unto you the access key into these redemptive realities and provisions, however, it is your spiritual stature and standing in the spirit and walk with God that opens your eyes to every provision available to you in Christ and also enables you to place a demand and enforce the physical manifestations of these divine realities and inheritance in your life and within your space. The significance and reason every believer in Christ ought to embark on the journey of building spiritual capacity and attaining stature in the spirit is in order for such a believer to fast-track the process and pleasure of enjoying the full provisions of the inheritance of the saints in the light as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. I arranged the different chapters in a manner to aid you on this journey of spiritual discovery, growth, and stature attainment.

It is my deepest desire that as you go through each page of this book, you will open your soul and allow the Holy Spirit to use the inspired words in it to inspire, motivate, push, and rekindle in your heart the hunger and desire to never remain an “infant” in the Lord. Taking the necessary and corresponding actions required for “gaining and attaining spiritual stature and capacity in the spirit” will enable you to release and enjoy the fullness of your redemptive

provisions in Christ Jesus as heir to the divine inheritance of the saints in the light. Hallelujah! Remember dearly beloved saints of God, that even our Father in heaven seriously frowns at, disapproves of, and not pleased with anyone of His heirs who are slack and sluggard about their spiritual growth. God is always at odds with those who are at “ease and comfortable in Zion” as stated by the Prophet Amos in Chapter 6:1: *“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and to those on the mountain of Samaria who are careless and feel secure, the notable men of the chief [because chosen by God] of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes”!* (AMP).

CHAPTER 1



Cultivating a strong spiritual stature

Now what I mean is that as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate; - Galatians 4:1 (AMP)

Friends, the above verse of Scripture is very direct and clear about the message it contains for the child of God and, by extension, the entire body of Christ. It is a universally known and accepted fact supported by biological science that every living thing grows in sense and stature. Simply put, growth is non-negotiable for all living things. Ironically, even stagnation and stunted growth is still growth, but since it is in the opposite or negative direction, it is considered unwanted and undesired growth.

Just as it is expected and desired in nature for every living thing (humans, in this case) to grow in sense, size, and the capacity to handle responsibilities, the same is true in our spiritual walk with God as people who have been delivered from darkness to the kingdom of God's Son –Christ.

“[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love”. - Colossians 1:13 (AMP).

Show me any genuine and sincere parent who feels fulfilled and satisfied to see their child or children having reached adult age physically still exhibiting characteristics of a toddler, and I will show you a parent who is still a child and who is yet to fully understand the responsibilities of parenthood and what adulthood is all about. It delights the heart of every parent to see the progress and growth of their children from one stage and phase of life to the other unimpeded. Nature itself was designed by the Master strategist and designer, our Heavenly Father, for all living things to grow in sense, size, and in capacity to handle responsibilities. Anything short of that is an aberration and against the natural order that God designed.

The evidence of adulthood and maturity can be expressed in the quality and magnitude of responsibilities you can successfully handle as a person. A mature child is the joy and gladness of every parent while, any child who has refused to grow up in thought, mind, emotions, size and spirit is the one who brings pain and sorrow to the hearts of his or her parents.

It is a painful experience for parents to see their physically and biologically matured children still behaving like weaklings mentally, emotionally, or psychologically. *Ecclesiastes 10:16* (AMP) makes us to understand that; ***“Woe to you, O land, when your King is a child or servant and when your officials feast in the morning”!*** Even the Scriptures implies that a nation, business venture, spiritual walk, ministry, career, and any human endeavour that is manned and ruled by a “child” will experience misery and end up in affliction, wretchedness, and every manner of evil.

Beloved heir of God, if God frowns and warns against a scenario where a child is given the responsibility to lead a nation or business endeavour, why would you think you can make any

considerable impact in advancing the frontiers of God’s Kingdom, enjoy the provisions that comes with being a partaker of the inheritance of the saints while remaining stunted and stagnated in your spiritual walk with God? His provisions become more accessible and experienced when one has gained strong spiritual stature.

His provisions become more accessible and experienced when one has gained strong spiritual stature.

Whenever the word “cultivate” or “cultivating” is used, it portrays and implies the involvement of work and the investment of one’s mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual capabilities. Hence cultivating strong spiritual stature is a call to bear spiritual responsibility for anyone who intends to attain a deeper and higher height in the spirit and in their walk with God if such a Christian desire to experience in full measure, the inheritance of the saints in light as the Father expects of him or her. It will cost you time, friendship, sleepless nights, and countless other things if you truly embark upon the journey of cultivating a strong spiritual capacity. Please note that it is not a one-off investment, rather, it is a lifelong and continual investment, work and responsibility if you seriously seek to maintain a strong spiritual standing in the spirit and in your walk with God.

Just as the farmer cannot enjoy the fruit of his or her farming endeavours without the “working of the soil” (cultivation), the same is true of every heir of God. You have the responsibility of cultivating a strong spiritual standing in the spirit. You are the one to answer the call for attaining spiritual maturity and sonship with the Father as a child of God. I see you adding and attaining new

heights in God as you take up spiritual responsibility to grow. The devil and his host of darkness only listen to and obey sons and daughters who know their place and position in the spirit that Jesus has placed them and who are constantly growing in their spiritual walk with God to maintain their standing in the things of the spirit.

I see you adding and attaining new heights in God as you take up spiritual responsibility to grow.

The New Birth

Colossians 1:13 captures what transpired at the new birth as believers. Everyone who accepted the gift of salvation was supernaturally delivered by God from the control and dominion of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son – Jesus Christ. Glory be to God.

Beloved, what this means is that the control and dominion that darkness once had over your life has been broken, destroyed, and rendered inoperative. The blood of His cross has not only liberated you and I from the power and hold that darkness once had over our lives, but more importantly, that same blood of His Cross has translated and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son Jesus Christ and has conferred upon each and every one of us that has accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour the privilege and honour to be fit and declared qualified as partakers of the Inheritance of the saints in light. Hallelujah!

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light. - Colossians 1:12 (AMP)

“Giving thanks unto the Father, Who hath made us meet to be

partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.” - Colossians 1:12

In other words, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the lives of the children of disobedience which Satan once wielded control over your life, have been destroyed permanently, demolished, and abolished so long as you remain in the Kingdom of God’s own Son that He translated us into.

“In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]”. – Ephesians 2:2 (AMP)

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”. – Ephesians 2:2.

Satan has completely lost his power over your life. As a child of God, listen to this and listen to it very well: from the moment God translated you into Christ’s Kingdom, only you can determine if Satan and sin will continue to regulate the affairs of your life. Children of God and those who have learned of Christ no longer live their lives aimlessly or make the practice of sin habitual. It is the power and hold that Satan wields over people that makes them to live a life of sin and the practice of sin habitual just as Ephesians 2:2a (AMP) noted - *“In which at one time you walked [habitually]”*. Rejoice, child of God, as a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in the light and as a partaker of the divine nature of God our heavenly Father; that both Satan and sin have completely and absolutely lost the power they once had over you and that Christ has given you victory over Satan and sin if you believe His word

and apply same in your daily life and walk with Him. Hallelujah!

It is the power and hold that Satan wields over people that makes them to live a life of sin and the practice of sin habitual.

“But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1st Corinthians 15:57 (NLT)

“But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1st Corinthians 15:57 (AMP)

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1st Corinthians 15:57

“Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!” - 2nd Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

If you are reading this book and you are yet to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour and still living a life of habitual practice of sin, you are allowing the power of darkness and sin to control your life. This will be the most appropriate time to invite Jesus Christ into your life by recognizing your sinful nature and inability to atone (compensate) for your sins all by yourself and by your human effort. Confess your sins to God and accept the gift of salvation that the grace of God offers to all mankind. A new dawn and page will open in your life in eternity and here on earth. God will transform your life completely and you will find peace with God and find a new meaning for your earthly sojourn. This is the only way you too can become a partaker of the divine inheritance of the saints in the light as we

shall be sharing in a later chapter in this book.

“Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honour and glory which God bestows and receives. [All] are justified and made upright and in right standing with God, freely and gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favour and mercy), through the redemption which is [provided] in Christ Jesus,” - Romans 3:23-24 (AMP)

“In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favour,” - Ephesians 1:7 (AMP)

“For it is by free grace (God’s unmerited favour) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; - Ephesians 2:8 (AMP)

Developing a Spiritual Stature (Growth) Is Your Choice

“Now what I mean is that as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate.” - Galatians 4:1 (AMP)

“As new-born babes, desire the since milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”. - 1st Peter 1:2

“Like new-born babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment. “ - 1st Peter 1:2 (NLT)

“Like new-born babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation.” - 1st Peter 1:2 (AMP)

Exploring our foundation text and 2 Peter 1:2 above shows that developing spiritual capacity and stature is left entirely at the choice of the child of God in question. You must make the deliberate choice of either to stay stagnated, staled, stunted, or to take the narrow and straight path of spiritual growth. Building spiritual capacity and attaining stature in the spirit will not come to you cheaply; it will always cost you a lot if you truly decide to walk in the narrow path of life. In the spirit's realm, the path to achieving and attaining spiritual height is always "narrow and straight". In simple terms, no child of God will be able to successfully attain any enviable spiritual height if they are not ready to pay the necessary price that it demands.

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As we said earlier in this book, for a Christian to enjoy the full and complete package of being an heir of God, a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in the light and joint-heirs with Christ he or she must be a fully-grown child of God. They must be willing to pay the price in order to attain spiritual stature and capacity. These are children of God who refuse to remain at the level of "infant Christians" but will put in the effort and take on the responsibility of spiritual growth. Galatians 4: 1 (AMP) says; *"Now what I mean is that as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate;*

We can deduce from the foregoing that a child of God, though a legal heir and joint heir with Christ to every spiritual blessing and inheritance that the Father has given to His Son, but remains a child, he or she is like a slave. In spiritual reality, it

means that such an heir will experience the level of provision given to slaves. So, the experiences of such a person will not differ from the experiences of a slave even though he or she is an heir and joint heirs with Christ. This is a sad reality and an aberration from the wishes and design of our heavenly Father who desires and wills that all his children fully access and enjoy the riches of the inheritance of the saints. Friends, fortunately God finished everything regarding this even before the foundations of the world.

“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, as I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: ALTHOUGH THE WORKS WERE FINISHED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD”. – Hebrew 4:3 (Emphasis mine)

God is not doing anything new and I say this with a deep sense of caution, knowing that not every heart is mature enough to accept it. It is only new to you because you are new to the finished works of God in Christ Jesus and are only discovering the things God has and is still doing in the space of time which is directly proportional to your level of spiritual maturity attained in your walk with Him. Our foundational text succinctly describes what the experiences of an immature child of God will be although he or she is the heir to the Father.

I implore you dearly beloved children of God to decide this day to grow spiritually. Nobody will and can grow for you spiritually; it is your individual responsibility to add stature in the spirit child of God.

You must cast off every slave mentality and spiritual childishness and take upon you the demands of sonship in order for you to be able to release, enjoy, and experience the quality of

life that heaven intends for you in your walk with God on this side of God's eternity.

“And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heir of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory”. - Romans 8:17 (AMP)

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning” - Luke 12:32-5

Our Perfect Example – Jesus Christ

“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him”. - Luke 2:40

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man”. - Luke 2:52

The Gospel according to St. Luke quoted above, is a clear and perfect example to us by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Although our Lord and master started out as a child born into this physical world, the truth is that Jesus Christ did not remain a child. In order to fulfil the mandate of heaven and accomplish His mission and assignment while on earth, the Bible in the above verse told us that: *“and the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit ...,”* If our Lord Jesus Christ could not afford to remain a child but grew and waxed strong in spirit in order for Him to fully express the divine provisions of God for His life and ministry on earth, then why do some of us live our lives differently? Attaining spiritual stature is non-negotiable for every child of God whether in the ministry, academics, professional and vocational life, or any field

of human endeavour that he or she is involved in.

Friends, what kind of stature are you building in your spiritual walk with God? The degree and dimension of your spiritual stature is what determines the degree and level of wisdom, grace, and favour that you will experience and subsequently express in your life's pursuits and ministry. This was very evident in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ who is our perfect example. You cannot claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ when you are not willing to follow his example.

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“When they had come, he looked on Eliab [the eldest son] and said, surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him. But the Lord said to Samuel, look not on his appearance or at the height of his stature, for I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart”. - 1st Samuel 16: 6-7

King David is yet another classic example that comes to mind in the Scripture stated above. It is absolutely clear to the discerning heart why spiritual stature rather than physical stature is an important virtue in every believer's walk with God. The Lord on this occasion had instructed Samuel who was the national prophet over the land of Israel to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as king over Israel after the Lord rejected Saul as king because of his disobedience to the instructions of the Lord. The Bible records that Samuel settled for Eliab whose physical attributes were overwhelming. But God admonished Prophet Samuel not to evaluate Eliab based on his huge physical appearance because He has rejected him. The Lord revealed to the prophet He does not

see as men see but sees from the “inner appearance or standpoint (the heart) which I will refer to as the spiritual stature, state, or position of the Christian.

“Be honest in your judgement and do not decide at a glance (superficially and by appearances); but judge fairly and righteously.” – John 7:24 (AMP)

The Lord chose David as the next king to replace King Saul because despite his young age and physical stature; he was very strong and elevated spiritually. This brings to question, how often we as men are quick to pass judgement based on the physical rather than the spiritual which is God’s way of evaluating people. You must learn to place value on the things God values and evaluate things, people, and issues from God’s perspective rather than by our earthly senses. We can compare the story of David’s anointing as King over Israel with that of St. Luke’s about our Lord Jesus Christ: *“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him”*. – Luke 2:40

You must learn to place value on the things God values and evaluate things, people, and issues from God’s perspective rather than by our earthly senses.

Jesus Christ enjoyed extraordinary wisdom, grace, and favour in His dealings with men and God because he refused to remain a child. He did not presume that because He was God in human flesh, there was no need to grow spiritually while on earth. Rather, He understood the significance and value of attaining spiritual stature so He gave all that was required. The same could be said of David also. God who looks at the heart favoured him above his siblings for the kingship of Israel.

Friends, the entire provisions of God to His children as

partakers of the inheritance can be yours if you take spiritual maturity seriously. Our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished his mission with grace and wisdom because he attained tremendous spiritual stature with God. David too was anointed King because of the importance he gave to building and attaining spiritual stature while tending his father's flock.

Our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished his mission with grace and wisdom because he attained tremendous spiritual stature with God.

“He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.” - Psalms 78: 70 – 72

CHAPTER 2



Why you should cultivate a strong spiritual stature

“In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provide].” - Ephesians 6:10 (AMP)

Apostle Paul, in this epistle to the Ephesian Church, unequivocally stated the significance of cultivating a strong stature in the spirit and in their walk with God. Our heavenly Father is ever ready to infuse and impart spiritual strength from His unending and overflowing bank of boundless might to any child of His that has taken up the challenge and responsibility to draw spiritual strength from Him. There are heights, dreams, visions, and destinies that will never be realized and attained by you if you are not strong in the spirit and not gaining the required spiritual stature in your walk with the Lord on this earth, notwithstanding that you are an heir of God and joint-heirs with Christ.