

# 7

## **Great Principles**

**Dag Heward-Mills**

**Parchment House**

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are taken from the *KING JAMES VERSION* of the Bible.

Parchment House

ISBN 9988-596-12-X

**Copyright © 2002 Dag Heward-Mills**

All rights reserved under international copyright law. Written permission must be secured from the publisher to use or reproduce any part of this book, except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles.

# ***Contents***

Introduction .....	1
Man is a Spirit, Has a Soul and Lives in a Body .....	3
The Spirit of an Unsaved Man is Dead and Desperately Wicked .....	11
The Spirit of a Saved Man is Righteous and Truly Holy .....	22
After You are Born Again, Your Spirit is a New Born Baby and It Must Grow .....	28
After You are Saved, Your Mind is Still the Same; It Must be Renewed .....	37
After You are Saved, Your Body is Still the Same; You Must Keep It Under Control .....	41
After You are Born Again, Your Mind is Still Open to All Kinds of Thoughts; You Must Learn to Think On the Right Things .....	48

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this book to the Association of  
Ordained Ministers and their wives:  
Rev. Ishmael and Olivia Sam, Rev Jacob and  
Kezia Godwyll, Rev Hamish and Annie Oddoye  
— you are the original team!



## *Other books by Dag Heward-Mills*

### **Poison: Taming Your Tongue**

*In this book, Dr Dag Heward-Mills describes the deadly poison found in the tongue, and provides lessons for taming this unruly part of our bodies. Full of real-life stories, this book will minister to you in a practical and interesting way.*

### **The Beast of Prodigality**

*Are you the head of an ant or the leg of an elephant? How many chances will you have in this life? Why do some people walk away from obviously great opportunities? This vintage teaching examines the syndrome of prodigality.*

### **The Strange Woman**

*Are you “strange”? What does the Bible mean by “strange woman”? In this revealing book, Bishop Dag Heward-Mills shares with you some vital secrets on how to protect your life and ministry from strange people.*

### **Name it! Claim it! Take it!**

*In this book, the author shows the believer a master key to receiving spiritual, physical, financial and material breakthrough.*

### **They Went to Hell**

*Does life end in the grave? Is there life after death? These are some of life's great mysteries. Allow Dr Dag Heward-Mills to take you on a journey beyond the grave and find out for yourself what actually exists after death.*

### **Bearing Fruit After Your Own Kind**

*Do you want to be great in God's kingdom? Do you want to bear much fruit in the Lord? In what areas can God use you? In his usual style, Dag Heward-Mills lucidly expounds the spiritual truth of bearing fruit after your own kind.*

## **Forgiveness Made Easy**

*Is there any sin that God will not forgive? What is the litmus test for forgiveness? This book is a must for every Christian who desires to walk in unbroken fellowship with God. Leap from pain to joy as Dag Heward-Mills outlines biblical keys to successful relationships.*

## **All About Fornication**

*What are the complications of fornication? Are you insulated from this sin? Discover more about the international and cross-cultural sin of fornication in this book. Dag Heward-Mills presents the reader with practical steps on how to climb out and stay out of the pit of fornication!*

## **Frugality**

*This book is phenomenal! Is your business improving? Is your church growing? What does it mean to have a big front door and a big back door? How can I prosper in good times and in bad times? Enjoy the practical and down to earth teaching in this book.*

## **The Minister's Handbook**

*This book is a compilation of the material a minister needs to conduct various ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, baptisms naming ceremonies, etc. It has been presented in an easy-to-use format which all pastors will find very helpful.*

## **Anagkazo: Compelling Power**

*Learn about this "compelling power" which makes evangelism effective and fruitful even in the face of opposition, excuse, suspicion, resentment, etc. This book by Dag Heward-Mills can make you more of a soul-winner than you have ever been!*

## **The Mega Church**

*The heart cry of God is for the world to be saved, and for His house - the church - to be filled! From this revelation was born this book by Bishop Dag Heward-Mills.*

## **Backsliding: Develop Your Staying Power**

*Though an unusual subject, “backsliding” deals with a very common occurrence among Christians. Many begin, but not so many survive to the end. In this book, Bishop Dag Heward-Mills sounds the alarm, and graphically shows why every Christian must make it to heaven!*

## **Beauty**

*What do you know about beauty? Is beauty one of the things you are looking for in a wife? Be enlightened as Dag Heward-Mills carefully and systematically outlines the ten attributes of physical beauty in this book.*

## **Born Again**

*What does it mean to be “born again”? What is not the same as being born again? Will I go to heaven if I’m not born again? In this interesting book, Dag Heward-Mills throws more light on many of the misconceptions about the “born again” experience!*

## **Duality**

*Are people really straight forward? Have you ever met someone who seems to have two personalities? Meet the perfect pretender in Brother Dag Heward-Mills’ classic exposé on the double personality. This timeless message is a must for every sincere believer.*

## **Ministerial Ethics**

*In this outstanding work, Brother Dag Heward-Mills examines real-life situations in ministry today. He addresses practical issues like finances, politics and ministerial interactions. This book is a must for every Christian leader.*

## **Principles of Success**

*Only one man in the Bible is described as “a man after God’s heart.” What earned him this reputation? Are the principles that made him successful in the eyes of both God and man relevant to the believer today? Find out in this exciting book!*



## **Supernatural Power**

*A lot of mysteries surround the spiritual realm, no doubt. But the fact still stands that the “supernatural” is real! Join Bishop Dag Heward-Mills in this exciting trip to the world of the supernatural and discover how to access this realm!*

## **One Hundred Percent Answered Prayer**

*You prayed for something and didn’t get it... Out of the frustration and the disappointment, you quit praying... Familiar isn’t it? The question then is: can one experience one hundred percent results to prayer? Yes, yes, YES! Find out how!*

## **Unbeatable Prosperity**

*The ability to prosper comes from God, and it is His will for the believer to experience unbeatable prosperity! As you read this book, let faith and confidence be stirred up in you, and lead you to possess your possessions!*

## **Strategies for Prayer**

*Knowing what to pray for and how to pray makes prayer enjoyable. In this excellent book, Bishop Dag Heward-Mills reveals certain strategies for prayer which will revitalise your prayer life, and give you a sense of direction.*

## **Catch the Anointing**

*This exceptional book by Bishop Dag Heward-Mills will teach you what it means to “catch the anointing” and how you can be anointed for ministry. Learn how to catch the anointing for the work of ministry. This book is a must for every minister.*

## **Lay People and the Ministry**

*Based on his experience of the lay ministry, Dag Heward-Mills shows why the Great Commission cannot be fulfilled without this biblical concept of lay people getting involved in the work. Learn how to combine your secular profession with real and effective ministry.*

## **Solomonic Success**

*Learn about Solomon's success in this enlightening book, the third in the success series by Bishop Dag Heward-Mills.*

## **Secrets of Success**

*All through the Scriptures, God has made it abundantly clear that success is included in His master plan for the believer's life here on earth. But how can one experience biblical and real success? This book gives the answer to that question.*

## **Seven Great Principles**

*At last this popular and powerful teaching is on the printed page! Seven Great Principles will enlighten you about the effect of salvation on the spirit, soul and body of a person. May God grant you the spirit of wisdom and revelation as you read this book!*

## **Leaders and Loyalty**

*Some are born leaders. Some develop into leaders. In this classic book, Bishop Dag Heward-Mills teaches on how this ingredient of loyalty consolidates a leader's performance. Using biblical, historic and literary references, the subject is made even more relevant to every kind of leader.*

## **Transform Your Pastoral Ministry**

*In an era when there are not so many pastoral success stories this is indeed a welcome book. Bishop Dag Heward-Mills, a very successful pastor himself, explains why and how it is possible to make the pastoral ministry effective.*

## **Loyalty and Disloyalty**

*Though a primary requirement of God for leaders, very little has been written on this subject. In this book, Dag Heward-Mills outlines very important principles with the intention of increasing the stability of churches. So relevant and practical is the content of this book that it has become an indispensable tool for many church leaders.*

## **Win the Lost At Any Cost**

I have become all things to all men so that by all means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22). *These words by the Apostle Paul reflect the heart of a soul winner: to win the lost at any cost! In this thought-provoking book, Dag Heward-Mills seeks to stir up all believers to the urgency of the task of saving the lost, for the end of the age is at hand!*



For additional information on Bishop Dag Heward-Mills' books, tapes and videos write to:

Dag Heward-Mills  
P.O. Box 114  
Korle-Bu  
Accra, Ghana  
West Africa

*Website:*

[www.daghewardmills.org](http://www.daghewardmills.org)

*E-mail:*

[bishop@lighthousechapel.org](mailto:bishop@lighthousechapel.org)

# *Chapter One*

## *Introduction*

There are many people who do not understand the concept of salvation in Christ. They do not understand what exactly has happened to them in Christ.

A lack of understanding often leads to confusion and sometimes backsliding. I wrote this book to bring understanding to your life. I have broken the process of salvation into seven “easy to understand” principles. These principles are key to your understanding of what christianity is about.

## THE PRINCIPLES

- \* *Man is a Spirit, Has a Soul and Lives in a Body*
- \* *The Spirit of an Unsaved Man is Dead and Desperately Wicked*
- \* *The Spirit of a Saved Man is Righteous and Truly Holy*
- \* *After You are Born Again, Your Spirit is a New Born Baby and It Must Grow*
- \* *After You are Saved, Your Mind is Still the Same; It Must be Renewed*
- \* *After You are Saved, Your Body is Still the Same; You Must Keep It Under Control*
- \* *After You are Born Again, Your Mind is Still Open to All Kinds of Thoughts; You Must Learn to Think on the Right Things*

After you understand these principles, you will know why there is no religion that offers what Christianity offers you. Christianity offers a *change* and a *recreation* of the wicked heart of man. Christianity is not a new set of rules. You do not get to heaven by obeying the “Do’s” and “Don’ts” of human beings. Christ will change your heart and give you power to control your body and renew your mind.

As you study these principles, I pray God gives you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.

## *Chapter Two*

### *Man is a Spirit, Has a Soul and Lives in a Body*

That fact that a human being is actually a spirit living inside a physical body is one of the lesser known truths. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he wrote that God should affect them in all three areas: spirit, soul and body.

**And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

A human being is not just a piece of meat. When Princess Diana died, many people in this world reflected on the reality of spiritual issues. One day, I had a chat with a man in the lobby of a hotel. He asked me what I do and I told him that I was a pastor. “Oh, I see,” he said.

“Do you believe in God?” I asked him.

“Actually, I had just been thinking about this.”

He continued, “When Princess Diana died, I wondered whether I was just a piece of meat.”



I told him, “You are not just a piece of meat. There is more to you than a piece of meat.”

When people speak in a very proud and arrogant fashion it is because they are not aware how real eternal things are. I will never forget my first day as a medical student in the dissection laboratory of the University of Ghana Medical School. It was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we were ushered into a large air-conditioned room containing twelve white marble tables. On each of these tables was a dead human being lying stark naked.

The dead bodies were those of ten men and two women. My friends and I gathered around one of the tables. There were stools around each table and I sat down staring at the dead body that lay before me. On the chest of this human being was a plaster with a name inscribed. The name of our cadaver was Cornelius. I wondered to myself, “Who was Cornelius during his lifetime? What did he do for a living? How did he come to lie before us, ready for eighteen months of intensive dissection?”

As we sat there, our Anatomy lecturer came in. He happened to be a Christian. He said to us, “Go ahead and touch them, don't be afraid!” But in spite of his encouragement, many of us were scared by the whole scene.

This Anatomy lecturer said something that has stayed with me since then. He said, “This scene should make everyone of you seriously consider what life is all about.”

He added, “If life just consists of the physical, then even goats are better. Because when goats die, they can be eaten, but human beings cannot be eaten.”

I thought about that statement and I realized that life must consist of more than what we see physically. Man is a spirit. The Bible says that God is the Father of spirits.

**...shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the FATHER OF SPIRITS, and live?**

**Hebrews 12:9**

## **Man is a Spirit**

If God is the Father of spirits, then we His children are spirits. That means that our bodies are just containers of the spirit. The Bible also describes the body as a house.

**For we know that if our EARTHLY HOUSE of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

**2 Corinthians 5:1**

When Lazarus of Luke 16 died, the Bible teaches us that he was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom.

**And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom...**

**Luke 16:22**

Nothing was said about Lazarus' funeral. He was a poor man. Probably, no one even noticed that he had died. His body was probably thrown into a mass grave.

I once passed by an unmarked grave. I saw three men

throwing dead bodies from the back of a pick-up truck into a mass grave. I went up to the car and asked, “What are you doing?” They were hospital officials who had been sent to bury unclaimed bodies. I immediately remembered Lazarus and said to myself, “These are modern day Lazaruses”.

But that is not the end of the story. After the body of Lazarus died, his spirit lived on!

Lazarus himself— the *real* man, was carried into Abraham’s bosom. Remember also the testimony of the rich man. He had everything in life. He had better health care so he lived longer than Lazarus. Notice that the beggar died before the rich man did. However, it came to pass that he also died. He probably had a grand funeral.

Years ago, I attended a funeral of someone whose funeral was very grand indeed. Dignitaries traveled from all over the country to attend the funeral. Special invitation cards were issued for the funeral. The corpse had several changes of clothing during the night. The most amazing part of the funeral was that a new road was actually constructed in the town to enable everybody to attend the funeral in comfort. I don’t know if you are aware of the cost of constructing a road— it is very expensive!

No expenses were spared for the funeral of this great rich man. This funeral also reminded me of the rich man in Luke 16. But the story does not end there. The Bible says in hell, he lifted up his eyes. The man still had eyes even though he was in hell. He cried to Father Abraham that he should allow Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue.

**And in hell he lift up his EYES, being in torments, and SEETH Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he CRIED [mouth/voice] and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his FINGER in water and cool my TONGUE; for I am tormented in this flame. Luke 16:23,24**

Notice that different parts of the body have been mentioned. The picture of a man is being painted in this scripture. This is interesting because the Bible describes the spirit of a man as the hidden man, the inward man or the inner man. The body is actually the outward man, and the spirit is the inner man. Notice the terms “inner man”, “inward man”, or “hidden man” in the scriptures.

**For I delight in the law of God after the INWARD MAN:**

**Romans 7:22**

**... strengthened with might by his Spirit in the INNER MAN... Ephesians 3:16**

**But let it be the HIDDEN MAN of the heart...**

**1 Peter 3:4**

Dear friend, the Lazarus who was in Abraham's bosom was the real Lazarus. That was the soul and spirit of Lazarus. The rich man who was languishing in hell was not the rich man who had been buried at that lavish funeral. It was the soul and the spirit of the rich man that was experiencing the fires of hell. You can verify for yourself, whether the body

stays in the grave or not! The mortal remains of human beings remain on earth long after the spirit has departed to eternal life or damnation.

I know that many Christians are not aware of this great reality that they are spirit, soul and body. Many Christians wake up in the morning and spend a long time bathing, brushing their teeth and getting ready. Many ladies spend over one hour getting ready to go out. After that they may have a good breakfast or lunch. Then these born-again Christians walk out of the door without even saying a prayer. They do this because they are not aware that they are more than a body. It is because they are not conscious that they are spirits living in a body that they spend all their time on the body only.

When a person becomes aware of his spirit and soul, he spends time building up and developing the spirit.

Many governments are not aware that a human being is made up of more than just a body and mind. They stress on education and physical fitness but they leave out the *real person*. Man is a spiritual being first of all! The body is just a mortal container of the human spirit.

It is time for Christians to be aware of the spirit that dwells in them. It is time for us to develop the human spirit. You can develop your human spirit by praying.

**He that speaketh in an unknown tongue EDIFIETH [builds up, charges] HIMSELF; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.**

**1 Corinthians 14:4**

This scripture speaks about buiding up yourself spiritually. The Bible says that when you speak in tongues you build up, charge and edify yourself spiritually. It is good to do bodily exercises. We are not against that! But what about spiritual exercises? Be conscious of your spirit within. You are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body.

## **The Soul of Man**

But what is a soul? The Bible makes it clear that the soul is different from the spirit.

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of SOUL and SPIRIT...**

### **Hebrews 4:12**

There is a dividing asunder (demarcation) between the spirit and the soul of a man. So what exactly is the soul of a man? There are no clear definitions of the soul in the Bible. What we have are descriptions of soulish activities. These help us to define what the soul of man is.

There are so many words in the Bible that are used to describe the activities of the soul. A soul can be said to be rejoicing (Psalm 31:7). The soul can magnify and bless the Lord (Psalm 103:2). The soul can be downcast (Psalm 42:5). The soul can be grieved (Judges 10:16). The soul can be discouraged (Numbers 21:4). The soul can be joyful (Psalm

35:9). These are just a few of the emotions that the soul expresses. We can therefore conclude that the soul is a part of man that experiences thoughts and emotions.

You will realize that the soul of the rich man was alive in hell. The rich man had thoughts, feelings and emotions even though he was dead and in hell. That is why he could remember Lazarus. The rich man thought things were still the same as when he was alive on earth. That is why he wanted to send Lazarus like a messenger, to proceed all the way from heaven to hell to serve him some water. Apparently the soul of the man had gone into hell, even though his body was still buried on earth.

The rich man remembered his five brothers and pleaded with Father Abraham to prevent them from coming to join him in hell. He pitied anyone who would ever come to hell. The soul of the rich man had perished in the lake of fire and he could remember, think and feel as though he was on earth.

What did Jesus say about the soul? He said, “What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul?” It is the soul that goes to hell. Your spirit and your soul will suffer in hell if you are not born again!

**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?**

**Mark 8:36**

Never forget this reality. You are a spirit (the inner man). You have a soul (feelings, thoughts and emotions). You live in a body (the house of flesh). This is the first great principle I am sharing with you. When you know who and what you are, you will live your life in the right way and with the right attitude.

## *Chapter Three*

# *The Spirit of an Unsav- ed Man is Dead and Desperately Wicked*

When a person is not born-again he has what I call an unsaved spirit. There are many different ways the Bible describes a non-Christian. The Bible calls him an unbeliever, a sinner and an unregenerate person. It is important for you to be aware of the condition of the human spirit.

**The heart [unsaved spirit] is DECEITFUL above all things, and DESPERATELY WICKED: who can know it?**

**Jeremiah 17:9**

There are some people who distinguish between unbelievers. They say, “This is a good unbeliever and this is a bad one.” It is true that there are differences between people. But the Word of God makes it abundantly clear that anyone who is not a believer has an unregenerate spirit and is capable of many evil things.

The fact that an unsaved man is in a terrible spiritual condition is made abundantly clear in Romans chapter one.



The Bible says that God's wrath is being released against the wickedness of men.

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...**

### **Romans 1:18**

The human race has forsaken the living God and therefore God has given them up to become dead and darkened in their spirits.

**... When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, AND THEIR FOOLISH HEART WAS DARKENED.**

### **Romans 1:21**

The heart of the unsaved person is darkened and degenerate. God has gone a step further and given up mankind so that they may follow their own desires and perverted feelings.

**Wherefore GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNES through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.**

### **Romans 1:24**

Not only is the spirit of the unsaved man darkened with death but the mind of the unsaved human race has also degenerated into a depraved condition.

**And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND to do those things which are not convenient.**

### **Romans 1:28**

As you read this passage further, you will discover that the sinful human race is filled with every conceivable evil. The long list of evil characteristics are there for your reading.

**Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**

### **Romans 1:29-31**

This principle that an unsaved spirit is desperately wicked is manifest all around us. God has warned against marrying non-Christians because a non-Christian has an unregenerate spirit and is capable of many evil things. One of the things that an unbeliever is filled with is covenant breaking (Romans 1:31).

Most unbelievers do not stick to their word. It is very rare to find an unbeliever who is faithful to his marriage covenant. One man told me, “I have never seen a faithful unbeliever husband before.”

As I grew up in life, I came to discover that covenant breaking was a part and parcel of unbelievers’ lifestyle. They say, “*I will*” and “*I do*”, but *they won’t* and *they don’t*. This is the reason why God says Christians should not marry unbelievers. Many young ladies think that the pastors are trying to punish them by telling them not to marry unbelievers. **God is trying to prevent your heart from being broken by a covenant breaker!**

Do not be deceived by the dignified appearance of the unbeliever. The nature of an unsaved person is described in detail for you in Romans 1:29-31. Believe the Bible more than you believe your eyes. The Bible is the Word of God and is profitable for our instruction. The wicked nature of an unbeliever will manifest sooner or later. Shakespeare wrote in *MacBeth*, “There is no art to find the mind’s construction in the face.”

No one teaches a child to be wicked. Wickedness comes naturally to many little children. Why do children lie, cheat and steal without being taught to do so? It is because the unsaved spirit is at work again. Everyone is born into sin. That is why we sin so naturally and effortlessly even as children. Our spirits are born in sin and wickedness.

**Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

**Psalms 53:3**

**Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?**

**Proverbs 20:9**

**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...**

**Isaiah 53:6**

**But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...**

**Isaiah 64:6**

When I was in secondary school, I couldn't understand the manifestation of wickedness in some of the students. They devised all sorts of unbelievable punishments. When I was in form one, I experienced torture at the hands of senior students. These senior students were not KGB torture specialists. They were just seniors with an unsaved nature.

They could mash chloroquine tablets (a bitter anti-malarial drug) in gari (processed cassava) and give it to people to eat. They had punishments called "tower of liberty" and "monkey dance" which would make all your muscles go into spasms. I was once forced to do a "monkey dance" until I was virtually paralyzed. I couldn't walk for some hours.

Punishments were devised in which you would be sent to collect twenty buckets of manure from a farm two kilometers away. After doing this twenty times, you would have walked eighty kilometers with a heavy load.

Where did all these ideas come from? They originated from the depraved and wicked heart of the unsaved man.

**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...**

**Romans 3:23**

I ask myself, "If such people were to come into political power what would they do to their enemies?"

All over the world, the depraved and perverted nature of the human race is manifest. When I hear of the atrocities committed during wars I wonder, "What is happening to the human race?" Wickedness abounds in the heart of man because the heart of the unsaved man is dead and

desperately wicked. This is not something that affects just White people or Black people— it is the nature of all mankind.

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**

**Jeremiah 17:9**

During the Liberian Civil War, we heard of people being fed to the lions. One Liberian refugee told me how the rebel soldiers would throw children into a well. When the well was full of children, they would pour kerosene on top of the screaming children and light a fire. The soldiers would burn a whole well of little children. These are real things that actually happened!

Why are human beings so wicked and evil at heart? Why is it that when the opportunity presents itself, we see incredible acts of savagery?

**The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men...**

**Micah 7:2**

A Lebanese man described something that he experienced during the war in Lebanon. He said, “One group would capture some prisoners that belonged to another faction. Then they would amputate the legs and arms of the captives and put the trunk (head, chest and abdomen, without legs and arms) of the people in a car and dispatch them to their homes.” He told me how a friend’s brother’s arms and legs were amputated and how terrible an experience it was. He continued, “The                      limbless                      man

was in such a pitiful condition that my friend had to shoot his own brother to end the torture.”

These acts of barbarism are manifestations of a depraved and reprobate human race. Why is the world filled with homosexuals? Why do millions of people commit fornication and adultery on a daily basis? Why does stealing, killing and injustice abound everywhere? The world has got over five billion greedy, corrupt, degenerate and selfish people.

God has given up the human race to its perverted way of life. It is this unsaved and degenerate people that Jesus came to the earth to save.

**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

#### **Romans 5:8**

This is why Jesus said a man has to be born-again because the first time round, we were born in sin and we were conceived in evil.

**Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

#### **Psalms 51:5**

Why do you have to do your O’level exams again? Because the first time round, you didn’t do well.

Another term for born-again is regeneration. When you are born-again, your essential nature is changed. That is why the Bible says when a man is in Christ, he is a new creature. God has to make a new creation out of the old corrupt man.

When a man dies, there is no way you can keep him at home. No matter how much you love your brother, when the condition called *death* lays its icy hands on him you have to part company. The dead person must go to the mortuary and then to the grave. Husbands and wives who love each other have to part when death comes to lay hold on one of them. Why is this? The body of your loved one is dead. It begins to decay and degenerate. There is therefore no way by which you can stay together.

Do you remember what God told Adam and Eve? He said, “in the day that you eat this fruit you will die.” When Adam and Eve sinned, they died. The condition of spiritual death entered their spirits and there was no way God could fellowship with them anymore. He had to drag them out of the garden and separate them from Himself.

The whole human race is separated from God because of sin. Salvation breaks the wall that separates mankind from God.

**...and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us... that he might reconcile both unto God...**

**Ephesians 2:14,16**

Before a man is born-again, he is estranged from God. His nature is essentially evil. **He may look good on the outside, but essentially, he has a corrupt and wicked nature.**

**The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men...**

**Micah 7:2**

That is why democracy and the rule of law are important. When one man with such a nature has unlimited power, he does many evil things.

In every nation where there is a military dictator, inconceivable atrocities take place. People are arrested and disappear into “thin air”, whilst hard-earned properties are arbitrarily confiscated. Stories of torture, brutality and murder abound. Viciousness in secret and in the open, has always been the order of the day with tyrannical rulers.

**A tyrant is simply an unsaved man who has unlimited power.** That is why governments are supposed to have three different *independent* arms: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. There is supposed to be a separation of powers. This is to prevent one group of “unsaved men” from having too much power over other human beings.

The law is supposed to protect the average citizen from the political powers that be. However, it is unfortunate that in many cases the executive controls the legislature *and* the judiciary, thereby giving absolute power to a few people. As Lord Acton (1834-1902) said in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton, “*Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.*” When Judges are afraid for their lives and their jobs, they often cannot make unbiased decisions.

## **Christianity and other Religions**

The difference between Christianity and every other religion is simple. Christianity claims to change the



essential nature of a man. Jesus makes you a new creation. You become a brand new creature with a brand new heart. In the Old Testament, the prophets predicted that the day would come when God would take out the stony heart and replace it with a heart of flesh.

**A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an HEART OF FLESH.**

**Ezekiel 36:26**

When a man is in Christ, he is a new person. He is regenerated. He is born again. When we speak of being born-again, we do not mean going into your mother's womb again. It is your spirit, the inner nature, that is born again. There is a rebirth of the human spirit.

**...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

**John 3:6**

## **Outward Changes are not the Answer**

Obedying a set of rules does not change your heart. Coming to Christ and being born-again is what affords every man the opportunity to have a new heart.

If you take a pig and wash it, bathe it and dress it up in a wedding suit, all you have is a dressed up pig. This same pig will return to the filth which it is used to because that is its essential nature.

**I believe with all my heart that it is only a change in the unsaved nature of a man that can bring about a**

**change in this world.** New Year's resolutions and obeying rules do not change anything because the spirit of the unsaved man is dead and desperately wicked. No one toys with a dead thing. Dead things must be separated from living things. The only hope for a dead and wicked human spirit is the miracle of rebirth in Jesus Christ.

## *Chapter Four*

### *The Spirit of a Saved Man is Righteous and Truly Holy*

When a man is born-again, the spirit within is changed. We have learned in the previous chapter that the unsaved spirit is desperately wicked and corrupt. What about the new creation? What about a man who has experienced the miracle of being born again? The new creation is righteous and truly holy. In other words, a man who is saved has undergone a radical transformation of the heart. His spirit is now a new creation in Christ. He is not a renovated and repainted version of an old thing. He is brand new. He is indeed newly created in God.

**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

So what happens next? What are we supposed to do now that we are born or created again?

**And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS.**

### **Ephesians 4:24**

This scripture makes us know that we are actually righteous when we are born-again. What God is telling us is that we must put on (act like) the new spirit which is created in righteousness and true holiness. Many times we come to God and say things that are not true. In an attempt to sound humble, we tell the Lord that we are sinners and we are not worthy to approach His throne. But that is not the case anymore. You are not a sinner anymore! You *were* a sinner. You are not unworthy anymore. You *were* unworthy some time ago. But now that you are born again, you are the righteousness of God. You are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works— Ephesians 2:10.

Please do not insult God's new creation. Do not think you can impress God with self-demeaning prayers.

It is time for you to acknowledge what God has done to your heart. The Bible says we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

**For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

If we are the righteousness of God, that means that we cannot be more righteous than we are today. The righteousness of God is the highest form of purity and

“sinlessness”. God is describing the status of your new spirit.

Somebody once said, “I don’t feel any different now that I’m born-again!” This is not about feelings but about realities that have taken place. Can you feel your liver? Or your small intestines? Obviously not! But they exist within you!

If surgery was performed and your appendix was taken out, the doctors would inform you that they had removed a part of your intestine. Although you cannot feel that a part of your large intestines has been removed, you are supposed to accept the fact of what took place in your abdomen during the surgery. After the surgery, you are supposed to listen to the doctors’ advice on how to live after such an operation. Sometimes the doctors will tell you not to eat certain types of food anymore, because that part of the intestines which digests such food has been taken out. You are told how to live after the surgery. In the same way, God tells you how to live after being born again or recreated. Being born-again is a spiritual operation in which God recreates your spirit. He takes out the old hardened and depraved heart and puts in a new righteous spirit. You don’t feel it, but it is real. You are supposed to be aware of what has taken place and acknowledge it.

**That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

**Philemon :6**

The Bible teaches us to acknowledge the good things that are in us because we are Christians. We are not

supposed to go around saying negative things about ourselves. If you say, “I am a bad person,” you are hurting yourself. If you say, “I’m stupid!” or “I am a sinner” you are saying something that is contrary to the Word of God. It’s time to acknowledge good things about yourself.

**...by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

### **Philemon 6**

Acknowledging good things will make your faith come alive. Say to yourself, “I am the righteousness of God”, “I’m a new person!”, “I can make it!”, “I am holy”. These confessions will take you out of sin into a life of practical holiness. There is always something on the inside that must work on the outside. Righteousness on the inside is working on the outside.

**Any born-again Christian who lives in sin is living contrary to his new nature.** If you continue in sin, it is by your own choice because the power of sin is broken and God has given you a new nature. It is no longer natural to do evil, it is against your very nature as a new creation.

Before you get born-again, there are evil things you do without even noticing. After you’re saved, something within tells you, “This is wrong! Don’t do it!” That is the new man crying from within. The Bible says, “Put on the new man.” Act like a new person because you are new.

I became a medical doctor on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 1989. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March I didn’t feel any different, in fact, I still felt like a student. I had to tell myself, “Hey, you are now a doctor. Act like one! Stop acting like a student and act like Act like it and walk in the newness of life.” who you really are!” This is what God is saying to His “new creation” children, “You are new, righteous and truly holy.

**Lie not one to another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed...**

**Colossians 3:9,10**

Remember this: righteousness is not a feeling. You do not work to gain righteousness. It is impossible to attain God's standards by your own efforts.

**... all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...**

**Isaiah 64:6**

Today, if you are born-again, you have been instantaneously transformed into a righteous, new man. You cannot be more righteous than you are after you are born again (we are talking of the righteousness of God Himself).

You can only increase your faith in your inherited righteousness. You can only practice more and more of your true nature. When you are conscious of your righteousness in Christ, you will become as bold as a lion.

**The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the  
RIGHTEOUS ARE BOLD AS A LION.**

**Proverbs 28:1**

Through righteousness, you will rule and dominate in this life. I see you dominating the enemy through righteousness! I see you overcoming your adversaries through the gift of righteousness in Christ Jesus! Your right standing with God is truly a gift from your Heavenly Father. It is something you can never earn through human effort.

Stand up now and become a world overcomer! You are no longer under condemnation!

**...much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL REIGN in life...**

**Romans 5:17**



## *Chapter Five*

# *After You are Born-Again, Your Spirit is a New Born Baby and It Must Grow*

When you get saved, something great has happened, spiritually speaking. There is no doubt about this. However, we must understand exactly what has happened. A spiritual baby has been birthed into the world. The Bible calls new converts spiritual babies. They are not born as spiritual giants or spiritual adults! They are just babies in spirit! When somebody is born into this world, he starts life as a baby. It is important that he matures into an adult.

**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, THAT YE MAY GROW thereby:**

**1 Peter 2:2**

There are times when people have the wrong impression about what Christianity offers. The evangelist preaches and says, “Tonight is your night! Your life will never be the same again after today.” He goes on, “After tonight, every yoke shall be broken in your life.” He declares, “All

you who are heavy laden must come to Jesus and He will give you rest!” This gives a feeling of an instantaneous breakthrough.

But Christianity is not an instantaneous cure to all the ills of man! Being born-again is just the beginning of a long process. Being born-again is like being born into this world. You must go through all the stages of growth and development. Without growth, the effect of Christ on your life is often not seen. There is very little difference between an unbeliever and a baby “born again” Christian who has not bothered to grow. That is why we ask all converts to go to church and receive the Word so they can grow in the faith. If Jesus had not grown out of the baby stage to an adult man of 30 years, we would not have been saved by Him! Growth is important to bring out the true nature of the body.

You must go through three important stages of development. Every Christian goes through these three stages whether he knows it or not! These are: the baby stage, the childhood stage and then the mature adult.

## **THE SPIRITUAL BABY**

**As NEWBORN BABES, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

**1 Peter 2:2**

Let’s talk about the baby stage. When a Christian is at the baby stage of his development, he has all the characteristics of a natural baby. All babies cry a lot. If you want to know if there is a baby in the house, just stand

outside the gate and sooner or later you will hear some cries.

**A spiritual baby is easily offended.** Anyone who is easily offended is an immature spiritual baby. Little things offend him and he is always upset about one thing or the other. All churches have a lot of babies who are offended when the pastor does not say “hello” or visit them. Life is full of offenses. Those who offend you are often those close to you. Ask yourself: am I easily offended? Do I always have something to complain about? Perhaps you are a spiritual baby!

**Baby Christians, just like natural babies, are unable to help or control themselves.** A baby defecates anytime, anywhere and in front of anyone. There are no controls whatsoever. A spiritual baby is unable to control his fleshly appetites. He continues to live in sin. He lives according to the dictates of his flesh and does whatever he feels like doing. As you mature, you still have certain feelings but you don’t yield to them unless it is appropriate. If you are living in immorality and have no control over your flesh, then you are probably a spiritual baby. A spiritual baby cannot help himself. He needs someone to counsel him and pray for him. Do *you* always need someone to pray for you? Can you not pray for yourself? Can you not read the Bible and seek for understanding yourself? If you cannot, then perhaps you are a baby in Christ!

## THE CHILDHOOD STAGE

**That we be henceforth NO MORE CHILDREN,  
TOSSED TO AND FRO, and carried about...**

**Ephesians 4:14**

There are some important childhood characteristics you must know about. Ask yourself: Do I behave like this? Am I a spiritual child or am I a mature Christian? **A child is unsteady and unstable.** It is difficult to hold the attention of a child for more than a few minutes. The attention span of a child is very short. Because of this, they are unstable and unreliable. Any Christian who is carried about by every new “a la mode” pastor is a child. If you move around from church to church every few months, you are immature.

**The pastor in each church cannot keep the attention of that childlike Christian for more than a few months or years.** A man who constantly changes his mind about who he wants to marry is a child at heart. He is unsteady, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and prophecy. Any Christian who can be made to leave his church because of a prophecy delivered to him by the new prophet is simply a child.

There are many childlike Christians in the Church today. Nothing satisfies them for more than a few minutes. Initially they are excited by the good word. After this, they feel they need special prayers and anointing. After that, they are convinced that a holy bath is what will solve their problems. Nothing seems to satisfy them and they are always sniffing for something new. They come into the church full of praises for the church and its pastor.

After a few months, they have changed their mind about what they said initially.

**Another sign of a childlike Christian is that he engages in fruitless playful activity. He does not contribute to the home in any way.** My Children contribute nothing to the upkeep of the home. They eat food everyday without knowing where the food comes from. In fact, my children have never asked where the food on the table comes from. They are just happy to enjoy the provision!

A Christian who is in the childhood stage does not contribute to the growth of the church. He witnesses to no one and he invites no one. He does not support financially and does not pay his First and Best Fruits (tithes). Ask yourself this question, “How much money does your child contribute to the upkeep of your home?” Nothing! Is he a part of your home? Certainly! He just plays and makes the house dirty, but contributes nothing. If you are part of a church but contribute nothing to make the church grow and prosper, you are a playful child who is enjoying good sermons free of charge. You are certainly a part of the church but you contribute nothing! You win no souls! You invite no one to church! You only come to church when you feel like it. Indeed you are a spiritual child!

## **SPIRITUAL ADULTHOOD**

**But strong meat belongeth to them that are of FULL AGE...**

**Hebrews 5:14**

When you reach the stage of maturity, you begin to love the meat of the Word. Bible study and the teaching of the Word are what enchant your spirit. Because the church is comprised of many babies and children, you will discover that a large number of Christians are not interested in the teaching of the Word. They want something dramatic and spectacular. Crowds of people gather when there is a sensational minister in the house.

A mature person understands the deep things of the Word of God. A mature person knows that he cannot live on signs, wonders and miracles. He knows that it is the Word that matters.

Another important feature of a mature person is that he is skilful in the Word of God.

**...everyone that useth milk is UNSKILFUL IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: for he is a babe.**

**Hebrews 5:13**

To be skilful in the Word means that you are able to share the Word of God effectively with others. When you become skilful in the Word, you begin to teach and preach! Do not make a mistake, every Christian is supposed to develop until he is able to preach and teach. It is not only pastors who are supposed to preach the Word of God. Preaching and teaching is characteristic of the mature stage of Christian development.

**For when THE TIME YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS ye have need that one teach you...**

**Hebrews 5:12**

There is a time when every Christian must be a teacher of God's Word. Let this be your goal from today. Decide to be someone who is involved in teaching and preaching the Word of God. Keep on growing spiritually until you are able to preach and teach the Word of God. Move on from there to the higher realms of ministry that God has for You!

## HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR SPIRIT

“Developing your spirit” is another way to describe growing in spirit.

The mind is developed in schools and colleges. Thousands of dollars are spent to develop the minds of the human race. That explains why we have taken such strides in science and medicine. A lot of money and time is also used to develop the body. There are keep fit clubs and gyms everywhere. The body is being developed into grotesque muscular giants. **But dear friend, you are more than a body. You are more than a mind!** You are a spirit living in a body and you have a mind. You must also develop your spirit. The question is, “How do you develop your spirit into maturity?”

The first key to developing the human spirit is the Word.

**...desire the sincere milk of THE WORD, THAT  
YE MAY GROW thereby:**

**1 Peter 2:2**

Allow the Word of God to enter your spirit through your Quiet Time, Bible study and Bible reading. Every Christian must have a Quiet Time everyday. I have a Quiet Time

with the Lord everyday. I benefit greatly from spending time with the Lord every morning. Many of the revelations that the Lord has given me came to me during my Quiet Time.

Moses was a man who had a Quiet Time with the Lord. Moses went up to the mountain early in the morning to meet with the Lord. He took two tables of stone to write down the revelations that God would give him. You need to have a Moses type of Quiet Time. Spend time early in the morning alone with the Lord.

**...Hew thee two tables of stone... And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning... and present thyself there... And no man shall come up with thee...**

### **Exodus 34:1-3**

A Quiet Time of Bible study and prayer is the most consistent way to feed your spirit. Your spirit does not grow unless it is fed on the Word of God.

Another good way of taking in the Word is by listening to tapes. The second best way by which I have fed my spirit over the years is through listening to preaching tapes.

**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

### **Romans 10:17**

I listen to tapes all the time and I am blessed because I do. God has given pastors and teachers to perfect the saints. You can receive the Word through these anointed men of God.



Another way that you can develop your spirit is by praying in tongues. Every Christian must develop the art of spending hours praying in the spirit. The Bible says you build up yourself in the faith when you pray in the Holy Ghost. Praying in the Holy Ghost is the same as praying in tongues.

**But ye, beloved, BUILDING UP YOURSELVES on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.**

**Jude 20**

Pray in tongues for an hour everyday and see what will happen in your spiritual life over the next three months. I guarantee you a change in your spiritual life if you will do this simple exercise. The Bible teaches us that you are spiritually charged and built up when you speak in tongues.

**He that speaketh in an unknown tongue, edifieth himself...**

**1 Corinthians 14:4**

The Word and prayer will cause you to develop in the spirit and to become a giant for the Lord. Walk in these two keys of spiritual growth and nothing will be held back from you. I see God taking you out of your hiding place! I see Him placing you before kings and prominent men as you develop your spirit!

## *Chapter Six*

### *After You Are Saved, Your Mind is Still the Same; It Must be Renewed*

**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Romans 12:2**

When you are born-again, your spirit is totally changed. **God gives you a new *heart* and not a new *mind*.** It is therefore the duty of every Christian to renew his mind. If you do not renew your mind, you will be a person with a new spirit and an old mind. There are many Christians who are genuine new creations but still have unrenewed minds.

If you belong to a good church which constantly preaches and teaches the Word of God, your mind will be renewed. There are many people who think that they know all there is to know in the Word of God. No one knows everything!

The unconscious, incompetent person is pitiful because he does not know that he does not know!

Every Christian must decide to be a constant learner of the Word of God. He must never stop learning. You will always discover things that you do not know. Years ago I heard a pastor giving a testimony of his life. He spoke about how he got born-again. Before he was saved, he was a pornographer by profession. That means he was someone who acted in pornographic films and posed for pornographic photographs. Sex was his work and he didn't see anything wrong with it.

He told us one day, "After I got born-again, I continued to live in fornication."

"I slept with one girl after the other and I never thought twice about it. It never occurred to me that there was something wrong with sleeping with someone you're not married to."

He continued, "I thought I was being a loving person to many girls. After all, love is a commandment from God."

One night, he was in bed with one of the girls when suddenly, a huge black figure appeared at the foot of his bed and he woke up in great fright. He was terrified and thought to himself, "Something is not right!"

The next day he decided to read the Bible and discovered where the Word of God says fornication is wrong.

**But fornication, and all uncleanness... let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints...**

**Ephesians 5:3**

Believe it or not, this man was born-again but because of his background, he did not even know that fornication was a sin.

It could be that because of your background you are not even aware that certain things are sin. I know many Christians who are prejudiced or even racist. There are pastors who are racist in their thoughts and decisions. Without even realizing it, we carry on doing wrong things although we are genuinely born-again in our hearts. That is why we need the Word of God to renew our minds.

**...be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...**

### **Romans 12:2**

It is actually the renewing of our minds that brings about a visible transformation.

When I became a Christian, I thought God wanted us to be poor. Somehow, my background taught me that poverty was more righteous than being prosperous. If you read the Bible, your mind will be renewed and your attitude will change. Transformation comes when the mind is renewed. The real change we look for in Christians comes through a renewal of the mind in the Word of God.

**See your mind as a computer which has to be programmed. Whatever you feed into the mind is what will come out.**

There are many Christians who do not tithe simply because their minds are polluted with wrong ideas. Some people think there is no need to do any such thing. Some think the pastors are just using the money for their

extravagant lifestyles. However, every Christian who has his mind renewed will find himself being transformed in the area of his finances.

Even though you are born-again, your mind is still the same. It *must* be renewed with the Word of God.

## HOW TO RENEW YOUR MIND

You mind will be renewed by receiving the Word. The old thoughts and ideas will be cleared out as you receive the Word. Jesus Himself said,

**Now ye are clean through the WORD which I have spoken unto you.**

**John 15:3**

Your mind is also renewed by joining the right church and learning the right things. As you receive the Word through your pastor, you will gradually experience a change in your mind.

**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the WORD...**

**Ephesians 5:26**

That is why it is so important that you choose the right church to attend.

It is true that you are a new creation, but you also need a renewed mind. It is the renewed mind that will make you live out the new life. When people see the new life, they will know that something real has happened to you!

## *Chapter Seven*

### *After You Are Saved Your Body is Still the Same; You Must Keep It Under Control*

**But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...**

**1 Corinthians 9:27**

When you get saved, you must know that your body is the same old body. When you come forward to the altar and give your life to Christ, you do not change physically. If you were tall and skinny before salvation, you will still be tall and skinny after salvation. If you had long hair before you got born-again, you'll still have long hair after salvation. What does this mean? Does it mean that nothing has happened to you? Not at all! Your spirit is recreated in God.

The body is still the same and you must realize this all important fact. Sometimes people give their lives to Christ and they believe that everything is going to be different from then. However, when they get home, they begin to feel the old feelings they felt before salvation.



They experience lust within their bodies. They feel the old feelings of jealousy, hatred and anger. Now because they do not know this truth (that the body is unchanged), the devil begins to tell them, “You are not a real Christian”, “You are not saved”, “You cannot be born-again!”

Satan continues to harass you and says, “If you were really born-again, such a thought or feeling would never occur to you.”

The devil tells you, “None of the Christians sitting in this church has the kind of thoughts you have.”

But that is a lie! We all have thoughts and feelings that we don’t want to have even though we are born again. Everyone who is born-again still has the flesh to contend with. Even Paul was worried about his flesh. He knew that his body was still the same. He knew that his flesh could disgrace him one day so he said, “I keep my flesh under control”.

**...I KEEP UNDER [control] MY BODY and bring it under subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

### **1 Corinthians 9:27**

Paul is the one who had personal revelations of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote half of the New Testament. He had so many visions and revelations of Jesus Christ. Very few people have had such spiritual experiences. Paul was one of the greatest apostles with signs and wonders following him. He raised the dead and the bites of snakes had no effect on him.

Yet, this great man was worried about his flesh. He felt his flesh could disgrace him at any time. That is why he



kept his flesh under constant control. Notice what he said in the book of Romans. He declared that there was nothing good in his flesh. Even though he was born-again, his flesh (body) was still the same.

**For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing...**

### **Romans 7:18**

No matter who you are, you still have a body to keep under control. Have you ever seen a spirit smoking or drinking alcohol? Certainly not! Spirits don't smoke. It is the flesh that drinks and smokes. Have you ever seen a spirit committing fornication? Surely not! It is the flesh that does all these evil things! That is why the Bible teaches us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians chapter five.

**Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have...**

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

These works are not the works of Satan or evil spirits. They are the works of the flesh. Look at the list again. Adultery, fornication, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, murder, drunkenness, envyings and the list goes on. Mind you, these are not the works of unbeliever's flesh. These are the works of the flesh. Do you have flesh? Of course you do!

You have a body and so do I. That means that both you and I are capable of this list of horrible deeds. The flesh is a real burden that we are saddled with through this life.

That is why we have no confidence in the flesh.

**... and have no confidence in the flesh.**

### **Philippians 3:3**

That is why we must be merciful to Christians who fall into sin, because when we consider our own selves, we realize that we experience similar temptations and feelings in our flesh. You are capable of everything you see listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

**Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**

### **Galatians 6:1**

One day when Jesus comes, we shall be changed. Our bodies shall be transformed into immortal and incorruptible bodies. We will no longer be capable of sin.

**...We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed... for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and, this mortal must put on immortality.**

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

One day I went to visit a friend of mine. He was a hardened sinner who was not interested in being born-again. I sat with him in his bedroom and we chatted for many hours. At a point, the Holy Spirit made a way for me to witness to him about Christ. That was his day of salvation. For the first time, he listened to me as I preached to him. When I finished, he asked me, “What must I do?”

I said, “Let us pray and I will lead you to the Lord.”

After I led him in the sinner’s prayer, he looked at me and said, “Dag, thank you very much. I feel I am a changed person.”

Then I thought, “If I have been able to lead my friend to the Lord, why don’t I lead him to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? I decided to do just that. I laid hands on him and to my surprise he received the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues fluently.

Suddenly something else happened. When I touched him, he was “slain in the Spirit” and fell on his bed. He continued to bubble in tongues for some time. After about an hour, I decided to leave and come back to see him later.

About five hours later, I returned to his house to visit him. When I got to the gate his sister told me that she didn’t think he was home, but I went to his apartment anyway. When I got there, something told me to pause at the door before going in. I stood at the door and what did I hear? My new convert was fornicating in the bedroom with his girlfriend. Oh dear! So soon after a wonderful salvation experience and the Holy Ghost baptism! I was aghast!

Less than five hours ago this man had received Christ and was gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit. I personally ministered to him and heard him speak in tongues, and saw him “slain in the Spirit”. How could he return so quickly into fornication? I asked myself, “Was this man

really born-again?” Does being born-again have any effect on a person? The answer is: yes, it does!

If anyone was ever born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit, this friend of mine was. But the reality was that his body was still the same and was capable of committing all the sins of the flesh.

As a baby Christian, my new convert had yielded his flesh to all the old sins. His flesh had once more engaged itself in sin, because it had not been affected by the “Born again” experience. His flesh was still the same!

**Never forget this! Even though you are born-again, your flesh is still the same, you must keep it under control otherwise it will lead you into sin.**

## **CONTROL YOUR FLESH**

There are some practical ways by which you can keep your body under control. Firstly, be aware of the potential evil that is in your flesh. Spend time fasting on a regular weekly basis. Do not give opportunities to your flesh.

**...only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh...**

**Galatians 5:13**

The reason why boarding schools have separate houses for boys and girls is because the school authorities do not want to give occasion and opportunity to the flesh. If you expose yourself to certain things, you will fall. If I expose myself to certain things, I will fall. What we need is wisdom to help us stay far away from dangerous enticements of the flesh.

Secondly, The Bible did not say we should fight youthful lusts. God said very clearly, “Flee youthful lusts”. If God knew we could have won the fight for fleshly control, he would have told us to fight. When God says run, then you must run! Don’t stand and fight. Flee for your life! Your body is still the same. Don’t trust yourself to your flesh; there is no good thing in your body.

Give no place to the devil and give no opportunity to your flesh!

**Neither give place to the devil.**

**Ephesians 4:27**

who would attend my funeral and I worked out every detail in my mind.

Dear friend, fear is an oppressive spirit that works through the mind. Whether it is worry, fear, or lust, you must learn to cast down wrong imaginations. You must learn to capture your thoughts and make them obedient to the Word of God. You must resist the devil.

**...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...**

### **2 Corinthians 10:5**

You must resist the devil in your life. When the Word of God says you must resist the devil, it means that you must resist the thoughts and suggestions that come from the pit of hell. The Bible tells us exactly what to think about. It tells us to think of things that are pure, holy and peaceful.

**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

### **Philippians 4:8**

## **CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS**

One of the best ways to control your thoughts is to listen to preaching tapes. Christian music and videos are good tools to help in controlling the thoughts. Do not give place

to the devil. You give place to the devil when you allow evil thoughts to settle in your mind. They will oppress and obsess you until you become possessed.

## **A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION**

**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting, get understanding.**

**Exalt her, and she shall promote thee... a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.**

### **Proverbs 4:7-9**

Have a new understanding of the concept of salvation through these seven great principles. Read this book over and over again. God will give you a new understanding that will make you grow in grace. In all your getting, get understanding. Wisdom is the principal thing. People who understand what is happening are the people who will experience God's victory. I see you blessed as you understand these seven great principles!





