

Your Way To Fruit bearing And Fulfilment

John Mwafise Woloko

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the written permission from Treff-End.

November 2017

**www.nevergiveup.treff-end.com
treff@treff-end.com**

For Edification and Comfort

Scripture taken from the New King James Version. © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, INC. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.





Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Chapter 1: Add Virtue To Your Faith	4
Chapter 2: Add Knowledge To Your Virtue And Faith	6
Chapter 3: Add Self-Control To Your Knowledge Virtue And Faith.....	10
Chapter 4: Add Perseverance to Your Self-Control, Knowledge Virtue And Faith	13
Chapter 5: Add Godliness To Your Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith	16
Chapter 6: Add Brotherly Kindness To Your Godliness, Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith	20
Chapter 7: Add Love To Your Brotherly Kindness, Godliness, Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith.....	25
Conclusion	29
Jesus, The Source Of Life And Fulfilment	31



Introduction

Once you become a Christian, it is only the beginning of a long journey with God on earth. God has a reason for bringing you into His kingdom. By becoming a child of God and member of His household, you join the warrior's community whose general mission is to implement the Great Commission command. At an individual level, however, you will have a specific role to play in this great commission mission which God will certainly reveal to you as you depend on Him and listen diligently to His voice. When you give yourself to God completely and are used by Him to accomplish His plans for your life, you can wholeheartedly proclaim to have lived an accomplished and fulfilled life. Hence, you can say with certainty *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Unfortunately, not all Christians are able to affirm Paul's statement above with certainty in their own lives on the moment of their departure from this physical realm. During their journey in this world, many don't succeed to pass all the tests of times and are, therefore, caught entangled in misery and failures.

In this book, you will learn a simple and straightforward tactic to live a fruitful and fulfilled Christian life. Never has there been a time such as our current generations when Christians long to have an impact in this world. However, this heartfelt desire to display God's power on earth is, unfortunately, suppressed by the deceitfulness of riches and selfishness in the lives of many. As you apply the knowledge you obtain, pick the broken pieces of your life, join them together and trust God for a new victorious beginning and fulfilled end. Arise, stand your grounds and abound in Jesus Name!!



Chapter 1

Add Virtue To Your Faith

It is one thing to be born again into God's kingdom and another to live as a Christian in His kingdom. For many newborn Christians, the biggest challenge is their past lifestyles. After becoming a part of God's kingdom, you are called to experience new realities that are totally different from the past ones. In your past chaotic and worldly lifestyle, you did the things you wanted without any form of control. Paul terms those past and wicked deeds as *"the works of the flesh"*, and summarizes them as follows *"adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like..."*; *"...unrighteous, homosexuality, sodomy, theft, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, extortion..."* (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In God's kingdom, however, there is order and discipline. This order and discipline enable the bearing of a certain Godly fruit by the believer known as *"the fruit of the Spirit"*. The fruit of the Spirit consists of *"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"* (Galatians 5:22-23) and is necessary to render the believer's great commission mission effective and efficient.

Once you are supernaturally born into God's kingdom, your first challenge is to know the basic principles of operation in His kingdom in order to bear the fruit of the Spirit and be effective in your walk with him. Your very first step to fruit bearing is, therefore, to add virtue to your faith. Virtue is *"behaviour showing high moral standards"* (New Oxford American Dictionary). Virtues are certain moral standards God expects you to acquire and display as a child of His kingdom. The people of the worldly kingdom where you came from do not live by Godly moral standards. The world is governed by concepts such as relativism, liberalism, radicalism, bias and subjective theories and mind manipulation. It is, therefore, no surprise why the world is full of injustices, inequalities and wickedness.

God's kingdom is totally different and the opposite of the worldly kingdom. By acquiring, practising and growing in virtuous qualities, the Holy Spirit will define the appropriate moral boundaries in the spiritual, mental and physical realms in your heart. Virtuous attributes or qualities are scattered all over the Bible and it is your duty to search the Scripture, discover them and trust God to practice and grow



in them. However, you don't have to do the job alone as you have the Holy Spirit who will guide you through the process and lead you to all truths. The Psalmist puts this better when he says;

*“How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your word.
With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You”
(Psalm 119:9-11).*

People of the world neither have a consistent concern for their attitudes and ways nor consider developing Godly standards and attributes in their lives. When you are supernaturally born into God's kingdom, however, you develop a natural concern to acquire Godly moral values. This natural concern originates from the prompting of the Holy Spirit who seeks to assist you in your daily walk on earth.

Nevertheless, many Christians resist the voice of the Holy Spirit prompting them to acquire high moral standards in their lives. As a result, many Christians find themselves projecting inappropriate and immoral behaviours that limit their ability to be used by God. Hence, many don't bear the fruit of the Spirit and cannot be used by God in an effective and efficient manner.

If you are warned by the Holy Spirit to turn from your immoral behaviours, now is the time to do that. God is waiting for you. He is ready to cleanse you and give you a new beginning. It is never too late with our heavenly Father. You cannot bear good fruits in that immoral condition and if you continue, you will not live a fulfilled life in this world. *“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

May the Good Lord deliver you and help you grow in virtue in Jesus Name!



Chapter 2

Add Knowledge To Your Virtue And Faith

When you have acquired high moral standards or virtue, you need to know how to properly apply them in your walk on earth. You see, the current world is a very complex structure with diverse ideologies and worldviews. Your newly acquired virtuous qualities are not the standards for everyone. Therefore, it becomes very complicated to interact with the world. Many people you interact with on a daily basis may be unbelievers who do not see things the way you see them. Hence, it is of absolute necessity to acquire knowledge of how the world truly functions and the beliefs of adherents of particular worldviews. You are not expected to know everything. Usually, you want to know what people in the community or system you want to reach out to believe and how those beliefs have affected their lives over the generations. Only then will you be able to serve them appropriately without compromising God's moral standards.

In this current world, there are various classes of people including poor, rich, learned, wicked, cowards, dangerous, submissive, deceptive, good, bad, etc. The efficacy of your great commission mission can be negatively affected if you do not understand the type of people you have been called to reach out to and how to behave in their midst. Many believers take these things for granted and end up becoming unproductive in their societies. Speaking of obtaining knowledge, Paul the Apostle talks of his great commission mission;

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you”

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23).



As time goes on, the concepts and beliefs in the world also evolve and they affect how people interact with one another. The only concepts and standards that do not change are those of the Christian faith. However, Christians need to be aware of the changes in their environments and communities and adapt their great commission strategies to be compatible with those changes. For instance, many societies are into smartphones and social media and many people in those societies are completely cut from the normal world. The devil is very active winning souls and strengthening his kingdom through the propagation of false doctrines and concepts on social media platforms. The great commissioners should also utilize those platforms if they really want to be effective in reaching out to the lost in those societies and communities.

The knowledge of the environment in which you exercise your faith and the philosophical beliefs of the people with whom you interact assists you not only in rightly dividing the word of truth, but also to devise the right strategies to display Godly moral values in their midst. Therefore, you need to add knowledge to your virtue and faith. In your endeavour to acquire knowledge, be careful to rely on and be guided by the Holy Spirit. Knowledge has a good and bad side. Good knowledge comes from God and is required to guide your steps in every endeavour in life while bad knowledge comes from the devil and is meant to propagate ungodly schemes. You should have a motive for acquiring knowledge and a plan for obtaining the knowledge from the right sources. Keep in mind that you are required to apply most of the knowledge you acquire in life.

In fact, acquiring knowledge without making use of it is not a wise decision. The aimless acquisition of knowledge is the reason why we have many non-objective worldviews and know-alls in this world who in reality know nothing at all. Some people acquire knowledge for selfish reasons such as fame and to manipulate and oppress opinions. The biggest danger of haphazardly acquiring knowledge is intellectual pride. Many people who have acquired knowledge here and there think they are the wisest. They insult and look down at others and believe that they have attained the summit of understanding. Usually, these intellectually proud people think they know everything, find explanations to everything and are not humbled enough to listen to advice from others, especially from those who are not as knowledgeable as they are. Such people can engage in endless arguments and conversations against objective truth and reason and are wise in their own eyes.



There is little hope for intellectually proud people because they provide little or no opportunities to be transformed by objective truth and reason. Paul says *“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”* (1 Corinthians 3:18-20). Solomon, the son of King David noted;

*“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him”* (Proverbs 26:12).

When God is the source of your knowledge, He guides you to obtain knowledge on those things that are meant to build up your life and the lives of people you will encounter. God wants you to apply all the knowledge He gives you so that you will become wise. James makes it clear that *“...the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy”* (James 3:17). God’s leading in obtaining knowledge helps you to acquire knowledge that exposes the weaknesses of other views that falsely and unobjectively oppose the Christian faith. When you have obtained this knowledge, God expects you to strategically and wisely confront those who adhere to these non-objective and false concepts in your community or system with the knowledge of the truth in Scripture. The Psalmist says;

*“You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;
For they are ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the ancients,
Because I keep Your precepts.”
(Psalm 119:98-100)*

As you continue to obtain knowledge from God by the help of the Holy Spirit and rightly apply it as directed by the Holy Spirit, you become a wise man whom God uses to save the lost from the pit of hell. May the Lord help you to abound in





the right type of knowledge necessary to help you fulfil His purpose for your life in Jesus Name!



Chapter 3

Add Self-Control To Your Virtue, Knowledge And Faith

As you must have already noticed, you are growing in a sequential process of maturity, fruit-bearing and fulfilment in your Christian calling on earth. In the first stages of your Christian life, it is of absolute necessity that you grow in virtuous attributes. Growing in virtue helps you to truly appreciate God's character and the moral standards of His kingdom. As you grow in virtue, you are also expected to obtain appropriate knowledge related to your calling, environment and the people you interact with to maximize your efficiency and effectiveness in obeying God's will for your life.

At this stage, God wants you to add self-control to your virtue, knowledge and faith. You see, you can grow in virtue and acquire as much Godly knowledge as you want but without self-control, it's a pure waste of time. Good examples of Christians who lack self-control are those who are repeatedly tempted to engage in ungodly acts such as quarrels, fights, gossips, thefts and anger. Self-control is the ability to put your emotions and desires into submission to God's will in every situation.

God has set certain boundaries or demarcation lines you are not to cross as a child of God. Contrary to those who think that God is restricting the Christian's liberty, these boundaries are not set by God to violate your freedom in exploring possibilities in His kingdom. Instead, the boundaries are set by Him to help you avoid falling into unnecessary and unpleasant situations in life. God is not interested in your destruction or premature termination of your mission on earth. He wants you to live a fulfilled life. Therefore, He provided certain principles by which you should live to be successful in living a fulfilled life in His kingdom.

Many believers neglect the details elaborated in His principles and are, consequently, not able to exercise proper self-control. For instance;

- Many believers still render evil for evil but the right attitude of self-control is to overcome evil with good.
- Some believers are proud and look down at others but the right attitude of self-control is humility and esteeming others better than yourself.
- Some believers insult non-believers and adherents of Christian cults such as Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses but the right self-control attitude is to humbly



confront them with the knowledge of the truth from Scripture. If you are not willing to sacrifice your time to understand their beliefs, acquire knowledge on how to refute their claims and show love to them, shut your mouth.

- Some believers feel that their denomination is the best and the only one that rightly divides the word of truth. Therefore, they don't hesitate to point fingers at other churches and believers. Not only is this notion false, the right self-control attitude is to be faithful in what God has called you to do where you serve, pray for the weak in faith and give a helping hand to those who are stumbling. Keep in mind that God's church is primarily the spiritual church and is composed of born-again members from all Bible-believing physical churches in the world irrespective of their denominational affiliations.
- Some believers take their fellow brothers and sisters to court and as a result create enmity among brothers and sisters in Christ. Apart from obeying the principles laid down by the apostles of Jesus Christ on matters of strife and disputes, another self-control attitude is to accept to suffer for Christ's sake by showing love to those who wrongly accuse you and steal from you.

There are many of such little things ignored or neglected by Christians today that prevent them from bearing fruits and living fulfilled lives in Jesus Christ. When you exercise appropriate self-control, you create a strong balance in your Christian faith and life. Self-control strengthens your ability not only to go through certain difficult situations easily but also opens valuable opportunities for people especially unbelievers to see God through your lifestyle.

A lack of self-control in a small issue can destroy years of trust and confidence people place in you. A good example is a believer who gets involved in a sexual scandal. Sexual scandals begin with little inappropriate sexual desires and feelings that can easily be dealt with by applying the Word of God in their initial stages. By neglecting or minimizing those sexual feelings and desires, the believer begins to nourish them to the point where they lead to inappropriate sexual actions. Another good and common example is anger. As a Christian, you are allowed to be angry and in most cases, it comes naturally. However, you must be careful not to unwisely act on your anger. An unwise utilization of anger by some believers is what causes them to engage in long quarrels, unforgiveness, fights, some divorces cases and other acts of wickedness and ungodliness.





May the Lord help you to add self-control to your knowledge, virtue and faith
in Jesus Name!



Chapter 4

Add Perseverance To Your Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith

An important lesson you should learn as a believer in this world is that life is not always fair. All your life as a believer, you have to live and endure this reality. Sometimes, you will be forced to confront unforeseen and unpleasant situations against your will. Remember that your reasons for growing in virtue, acquiring appropriate knowledge and exercising self-control are to please God and effectively serve the people God brings your way.

When you are born into God's kingdom, you have one main mission – the great commission. In this great commission project, there are various tasks and each believer is assigned to one or more tasks to accomplish the big project. The tasks assigned to believers fall under the following major categories;

Those in the fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:7-13);

- **Apostles** – people whose role is to bring the gospel to new places where Jesus is not yet effectively preached. Many missionaries fall under this category.
- **Prophets** – people who warn communities of divine revelations and may foretell certain revealed coming events.
- **Evangelists** – people whom God uses to plant seeds of the gospel everywhere in the world. Most evangelists target unsaved people.
- **Pastors** – people whom God gives responsibilities over particular flocks of people all over the world to shepherd them to maturity. It is appropriate for a pastor to be a good teacher.
- **Teachers** – people whom God uses to rightly divide the word of truth to the saved to enable them to grow to maturity.

Supportive tasks (1Corinthians 12:18-28, Romans 12:3-8) which are divided into two main categories including;

- **Helping tasks in the church and in the world** – administration, governance, ruling and any other task you are involved in in the Body of Christ, government and non-governmental organizations, companies, associations etc. God expects you to work for His kingdom wherever He has called you to exercise the gifts He has bestowed on you.



- **Exhortation, edification and comfort tasks** – these include encouragements, praying for others, leading, proclaiming the Word of God and blessings on others, etc.

As a believer, your mission is to know what God has called you to accomplish, how He wants you to accomplish it and get to work. This mission involves trusting God on a daily basis to hear His voice and obey His will. When you are determined to implement God's will for your life, you will attract persecution from the devil and the world. Hence, you need to add perseverance to your self-control, knowledge, virtue and faith. Perseverance is your ability to endure persecution and other injustices in the world around you. As you set yourself out to do the will of God, Satan will cause people to hate you for no reason and persecute you for your faith. He will cause others to confront you with pain and hardship with the intention of discouraging and weakening you. Hence, as a Christian, be ready to endure some difficult and unpleasant situations depending on your calling.

Persecution and sufferings as a child of God take various forms. Many children of God face prison sentences while others face death threats. In some communities of the world, Christians are targeted and killed by extremists of other worldviews with the aim of preventing the truth from propagating. In some situations, your mission may involve going to distant places and living in difficult and unusual conditions for the sake of the gospel. Whatever the situation may be, you have been called to exercise perseverance in those moments. The writer of Hebrews says *“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise”* (Hebrews 10:36). Perseverance is your ability to endure sufferings for Christ's sake.

Without perseverance in your life, you will not be able to endure the tests of times that come as a result of being faithful in obeying God's will. Everyone who claims to be a child of God must be tested. By the help of the Word of God, you will resist most temptations but few times, you will fall into temptations and go through very unpleasant situations. Whether you are resisting or have falling into temptation and trusting God to come out, you need perseverance. Again the writer of Hebrews says *“And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises”* (Hebrews 6:11-12).



You see, there is a false assumption among some Christians that once you become a child of God, your problems are over. Others hold to claims that Christianity is all about prosperity and blessings but forget that suffering for Christ's sake is part of being blessed as a Christian. Many of these Christians are not focused on God but on material and wealth acquisitions. Many, especially a great majority of those in the 'once saved always saved movement' do not have a genuine fear of God and become sluggish in spiritual matters. Many of these believers neglect the fact that the full assurance of being a child of God and spending eternity with Him requires a diligent search of the Father and obedience to His will.

Faithfulness in doing what God has called us to do is a serious parameter in God's kingdom. Many Christians in the world are focused on achieving their own desires and not on achieving what God wants them to achieve. Their focus is on worldly things and not on God. Jesus tells His followers in this world *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of God should be the focus of your endeavours on earth. If you focus on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, He will make sure that all those other things you so much desire to fulfil God's purpose for your life be added to you. God is faithful and keeps to His promises.

Nevertheless, the world being an unfair environment cannot allow you to succeed in truly seeking God's kingdom and receiving His promises in your life without your ability to persevere in all the pains and hardships it causes. Therefore, you have need of perseverance. You cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit and walk successfully in God's kingdom without perseverance. May the Lord teach you perseverance and suffering for the sake of Christ in Jesus Name!



Chapter 5

Add Godliness To Your Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith

This is where serving God starts getting really complicated for the majority of believers. Many believers in the Body of Christ have failed fatally in exercising Godliness in their endeavours on many occasions in our degraded generations. When you are suffering for Christ's sake, the devil always presents many sweet opportunities to exercise ungodliness. Godliness is your ability to act in line with God's standards and principles. God, through the prophet Isaiah, gives us a clear picture of the struggle in the Body of Christ today when He says:

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts”.*
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

Do not be deceived by anyone to believe that your journey on earth as a Christian is a bed of roses. Saying this should not invite any form of ungodly fear in your heart but courage and determination to serve God with all your heart. What makes Christianity interesting and lovely, is the Christian's ability to maintain a supernatural balance in the situations of uncertainty the world presents. This can be demonstrated by the definition of faith itself *“...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1). In other words, faith is your ability to rely on the fact that God will never fail to fulfil His word in your life if you trust Him.

Jesus stresses the point of faith further saying *“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”* (Mark 11:24).

How many times do we forget as believers that God is faithful enough to bring to pass what He has promised? How many times do we try to help God in bringing solutions to our problems instead of allowing Him to lead us His way? How many



times do we worry, think and become depressed when in hard situations and troubles? How many times do we complain and run to human beings for solutions instead of depending on God? How many times do we compromise the word of God and settle down for premature solutions and escape routes when in trouble?

In reality, without godliness, you cannot answer these questions satisfactorily in your own life. You need the ability to hold on to what God has said in the Bible no matter the situation. You need the ability to always ask what God says about anything before you act. Without this ability, you will certainly compromise His principles and standards and fall short of His glory in your life.

In a world where the gospel message is constantly shifting from the '*Crucified Christ*' to '*blessings and material possessions*', you need godliness to hold on to the end. Godliness will prevent you from accepting compromising doctrines in your life and keep you focused on working out your salvation with fear and trembling. The world and its people have their ways of doing things and achieving results but godliness will assist you in inquiring, evaluating and maintaining Godly principles and standards in all your endeavours and achieving God's intended purpose for your life. Godliness will motivate you to always inquire about what God wants you to achieve at any given point in time and how He wants you to accomplish those things.

You see, the world has many seducing standards and ways of achieving certain things but God's ways are not the world's ways. Moreover, God's promises are not accomplished automatically in your life simply because you are His child. God is the giver of life and blessings to unbelievers all over the world as well. Nevertheless, if you claim to be God's child, you are called to believe in His existence and unfailing nature in fulfilling His supernatural promises in your life and to adopt a conscious diligence and godly determination in knowing and doing His will in any situation.

Ungodliness is the reason why many Christians engage in big or little compromises of their faith. Ungodly Christians fight for rights, pay evil for evil, refuse to forgive and fail to esteem others better than themselves. Keep in mind that every time you fail to inquire from God about His will in a situation and the principles and standards He laid in Scripture and do those things your own way, you engage in ungodliness. Also, remember that most times, you are called to exercise godliness in persecution and sufferings for Christ's sake. The devil knows that he stands a chance of winning a battle against you if He approaches you in your moments of



weakness and suffering. God, however, expects you to be strong in your weaknesses and suffering and refuse to compromise your faith or be seduced by him.

Satan waited for Jesus to be in a position of suffering (hunger) before tempting Him because at that moment he had the best opportunity to cause Jesus to compromise His belief in God (Luke 4). Rather than depending on His own abilities which would have certainly caused Him to compromise, Jesus inquired from God and told Satan what God says about the situation *"It is written..."*.

This form of inquiry is what God expects from all His children today. Every little detail is important in the eyes of God. Your success in obeying and doing God's will also depend on how diligent you seek, understand and implement His standards and principles in all your endeavours in life.

It should be clear that this is not a super easy mission as some believers profess. It requires godly courage, zeal and determination to achieve success because of the adversary. No battle involving an adversary is easy. Those who think that it is easy are relaxed, eating and drinking and rarely take the word of God seriously and are open to all forms of compromising doctrines. They are not willing to sacrifice their comfort zones for Christ's sake even for a little while because suffering for Christ is not in their agenda as Christians. They are experts in knowledge and doctrines of the Christian faith that expose the goodness and love of God but completely neglect God's wrath and anger against disobedience and all forms of ungodliness. Jesus and Isaiah clearly describe this form of non-diligent serve as follows;

*"These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men".
(Matthew 15:8-9; Isaiah 29:13)*

This should not call for any ungodly fear in your heart. Instead, it should resuscitate a genuine and godly fear which, in turn, leads to a proper re-examination of your life and relationship with Your Father in Heaven. If you discover that you



have been going the wrong way, simply humble yourself to God and trust Him to guide you back on the right track.

The devil, world and flesh have many alternatives to God's standards and principles. Your duty is to avoid all those alternatives presented by the devil, world and flesh and stay focused on God. Once again, you cannot be successful without a Godly heart and sincere desire to see Godly standards and principles prevail. Moreover, you need courage and determination to stand your grounds and affirm your adherence to Godly principles and standards in an immoral and provocative world such as the one we have today.

May the Lord guide you to see and do things as God wants and not as the devil, world and the flesh want in Jesus Name!



Chapter 6

Add Brotherly Kindness To Your Godliness, Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith

You may be tempted to think that everything is complicated with God but such a belief is far from the truth. There is a big problem in Christianity today which has already partly been mentioned in formal chapters – many believers see God as their *‘prayer answering machine’* than *‘their loving and caring Father who desires to build a heavenly Father-child relationship with them’*. You see, when appropriate reverence and consideration is not given to God as the primary focus in your life, everything else becomes a mere formality and fruitless endeavour. God is the source of life and everything Godly and all His children are supposed to keep that in mind. If God is not your focus, every principal foundation and standard He has laid falls and as a consequence, you build on sinking sand. Those who build on sinking sand are, therefore, those whose focus is not on God but on worldly and created things.

A common characteristic of people whose focus is not God is that they are ready to compromise God’s standards and principles when necessary to achieve what they want. This explains why you find believers who;

- Want to be the best televangelist in their time to obtain praises from people.
- Want to have a name by building the biggest churches in the world.
- Have endless ambitions and projects for selfish purposes.
- Can compromise and sell their souls to the devil for success.
- Adopt witchcraft and occult practices to do miraculous signs and wonders in the church of God to have a name and riches.
- Cannot afford to lose what they have acquired for Christ’s sake.
- Are irresponsible to the great commission mission and see no value in the salvation of other fellow human beings.
- Manipulate and use the gospel to achieve material things and success.
- Utilize their fellow believers and exploit their services to make a name and wealth for themselves.



In fact, the list is endless and the consequences in the Body of Christ are disastrous and this is where brotherly kindness is important and comes into play.

You see, most of the time on earth as a child of God, you will encounter people of various categories. You will deal with the rich, poor, good, bad, fair, abnormal, wicked, humbled, exalted, knowledgeable, difficult, cunning, deceitful, prideful, amazing, friendly, etc. What you do is very important because your actions will affect not only how people see you but also what impression they make of the God you represent. Therefore, in your relationships with people, you need to exercise brotherly kindness - *“friendly, generous and considerate”* (New Oxford American Dictionary). Brotherly kindness is, therefore, your ability to deal with everyone that comes your way in an appropriate Godly manner.

By now, you already know that you will be persecuted as a child of God and that you will certainly be a target to worldly people because of your belief in Jesus. You also know that you can never completely avoid people (believer or non-believers) but are forced to interact with everyone. If in the course of your relationships with these people, God is not your main focus, you will never be able to show brotherly kindness to them. Brotherly kindness is to maintain a fair and balanced relationship with all the people you encounter.

Some people misunderstand brotherly kindness when they say you cannot be kind to everyone. Brotherly kindness does not mean that everyone you come across will agree with you. In fact, it is far from this and deeper than this superficial way of seeing it. Instead, in exercising brotherly kindness, you take note of the context and conditions of the people you encounter in life and play your part in treating them well irrespective of how they respond back in the process.

For instance, it will be unfair to be too hard towards a young and inexperienced believer in the faith for compromising godly principles and standards for the first time. However, you will certainly be hard towards a mature believer who falls. Nevertheless, in the process of your interaction with either the mature or inexperienced, you give words of encouragement and a helping hand to raise them up again from their fallen state.

When dealing with unbelievers, you stay humbled and esteem them better than yourself while wisely refuting any ungodly arguments coming from them and utilizing all necessary opportunities they provide to preach the gospel to them. The



exercise of your brotherly kindness is enough in some cases to cause unbelievers to inquire about your faith and give you valuable opportunities to bring them to Christ.

When brotherly kindness is in action, you see people the way God sees them. You understand that God loves all wicked people but hates their actions and wants them to come to the knowledge of the truth. You also understand that you are an important instrument in God's hands not only to build up those who are weak in the faith but also to be used by the Holy Spirit to announce the good news to the wicked and ungodly.

Jesus says *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you"* (John 15:18-19). As a typical person who lives in this world but not of it, the question is not whether the world will hate you or not. That question is already answered by Jesus that the world will certainly hate you because of your faith in Him and claim to be in His kingdom. The real question, however, is what you do when people of this worldly kingdom hate, persecute, attack and treat you unjustly. You are not of this world but you live in it at the moment and are forced to interact with people for whom Jesus also died. What then should you do?

Brotherly kindness comes in strongly to help you develop a special concern and Godly compassion for the people you encounter and pushes you to desire the spiritual enlightenment of the lost and spiritual development of the weak and fragile. A heart filled with brotherly kindness does not manipulate people nor utilize them for material and wealth production for selfish reasons. It also does not behave proudly and arrogant in front of others especially when in a position of authority. Instead, a brotherly kind heart does not want people to endeavour in any activity in this world in vain. It has a genuine consideration for life after death for all human beings and can use every authority, capacities and possibilities in its possession to assist others to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now you can see why many mega preachers and leaders of huge spiritual movements lack this vital quality. Instead of desiring the spiritual growth and prosperity of the people through practical spiritual endeavours, many leaders of these huge movements like to be at the centre of everything. They want to be seen and be called by big names. Most of them are idols worshipped by members of their congregations. Many of their church members are audiences who have no means to



truly hear from God, take spiritual initiatives and grow in the faith and walk with God. Their organizations are governed by many hierarchical laws and protocols which limit certain offices and positions of responsibilities to few people causing members to fight or negatively compete in order to occupy those positions of responsibility and the advantages attached to them. While this spectacle is going on in some of these organizations, the ungodly are perishing in the world and are in need of believers to tell them about the Saviour Jesus Christ and to bring good tidings of the Heavenly Kingdom to them.

Is this short paragraph above written against mega churches? Not at all! A church can be huge and filled with believers who truly care for one another's spiritual progress, growth and the Great Commission. However, there are 'very few' of such mega-churches with a sincere Godly agenda where you can truly develop spiritually and serve God. This might seem provocative but it is the truth. Solomon says;

*"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
Loving favor rather than silver and gold" (proverb 22:1).*

What many forget is that genuine great names for God are manufactured through humility and genuine service with Jesus Himself being at the centre of their service and the greatest example to follow. True great men and women of God are very humbled. They don't spend their time displaying wealth, riches and material possessions. They also don't induce their flock to develop a materialistic mindset. Today, we have articles which talk about the wealth and personal acquisitions of certain spiritual leaders and their extravagant lifestyles. The good spiritual leaders have a genuine concern for the spiritual development of their audiences. They are also ready to leave any position of comfort for God's sake. In reality, many of these great spiritual leaders in the eyes of God are not even known to the world. The majority are faithful leaders of smaller movements and will be discovered on that Great Day of The Lord when rewards will be given by Jesus to the faithful.

Be diligent and remember that you have a mission in this world – to play your role in the Great Commission command from Jesus Christ. You have not been called to be a churchgoer or spiritual spectator. At the end of your life on earth, you will stand alone before the throne of God to give an account of your life. God will ask you



questions concerning the gifts and calling He gave you. Therefore, you are not useless in the hands of God.

Some so-called spiritual leaders are not helping you to live a fruitful and fulfilled life in Christ. Rather, they are obstacles on your way, making use of you for their own enrichment and giving you no chance to truly know and accomplish God's will for your life. This is a simple warning to look around to see if you are not held captive by one of such movements. God has offices in His kingdom project and it is your duty to inquire from God and ensure that you are occupying the appropriate office He wants for you and playing your role in advancing His work. Any spiritual leader or organization that prevents spiritual growth or does not encourage its adherents from growing spiritually and participating in the Great Commission Mission lacks brotherly kindness and is consequently, dangerous for your faith.

Therefore, brotherly kindness might not be easy to practice especially towards unbelievers and might require endurance and some practical experience to be mature but it remains a vital virtue necessary for fruit bearing and fulfilment in your life. Never take it for granted. May the Lord guide you to be considerate, kind, friendly and desire the spiritual development of all the people you encounter in Jesus Name!



Chapter 7

Add Love To Your Brotherly Kindness, Godliness, Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge, Virtue And Faith

Remember that you are on a journey to bear fruits in your life and to live a fulfilled life in God. In fact, that is the reason why God called you *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”* (John 15:16). You will notice that Jesus is specific about bearing fruits that remain. You see, there are many so-called ‘good projects’ undertaken by Christians all over the world but sadly, God is not the Inspirer of such projects. Besides, those projects have little or no impact in effectively advancing God’s kingdom. By specifying that we bear fruits that remain, Jesus is advising His followers to focus on projects that will give us eternal rewards. As a matter of fact, anything God calls you to do has an eternal impact on His kingdom. The question is whether God has called you to do what you are doing or not.

Curiously, Jesus adds to the previous statement saying *“These things I command you, that you love one another”* (John 16:17). Why? Simply, because love is the supreme attribute in God’s kingdom. Without love, everything discussed previously is in vain. Love, as Apostle Paul describes it, *“is the bond of perfection”* (Colossians 3:14). Love is the foundation that holds everything together and the engine that keeps everything in your life as a child of God moving towards the right direction. When you talk about love, you are at the climax.

To understand what love means and what it entails, no chapter in the Bible describes it better than 1 Corinthians;

*“Love suffers long
and is kind;
love does not envy;
love does not parade itself,
is not puffed up;
does not behave rudely,
does not seek its own,
is not provoked,*



*thinks no evil;
does not rejoice in iniquity,
but rejoices in the truth;
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails”
(1Corinthians 13:4-8).*

A lot is given to all believers in these verses and we all have work to do in terms knowing what love means and walking in it. How many times have you stumbled in at least one of these things? If you examine your life properly, you will find enormous spiritual gaps to cover. The goal is to reach the state where you can love others as Jesus loved you and that is what these verses about describes. While you were still a sinner, Jesus loved you and died for you. Jesus, therefore, expects you to lay down your own life, sacrifice yourself and all the resources He gives you to reach out to the lost in the same way He reached out to you. He did not reject you in your sin state and although He hated your wicked actions and bad lifestyle, He loved you and died for you so that you could be free from your wickedness. That is exactly how He wants you to see sinners – to hate their actions and sacrifice your life to announce the good news to them as well.

- How many times have you failed to suffer for Christ sake?
- Are you showing kindness to the people you encounter?
- Do you still continue to envy others?
- Are you parading yourself here and there?
- Are you with those who are puffed up?
- Do you behave rudely towards people?
- Are you working for yourself rather than for God?
- Can you easily be provoked by others?
- Do you still think of evil things as a child of God?
- Do you rejoice and support evil schemes in this world?
- Are you seeking and always exposing the truth in every situation?



- Do you think you are ready to bear all things for Christ's sake?
- Are you among those who believe certain things the Bible says and not others?
- Do you have hope that all things God has said will come to pass?
- How ready are you to endure persecution and sufferings for the sake of the gospel?
- How sure are you that God cannot fail you and how sure are you that you will also not fail Him?

These questions are certainly difficult to answer and give Christians a lot to think about. If you can answer them without stress, it is an indication that you are walking in perfect love with God. If, however, you struggle to answer these questions, it is an indication that you have work to do in terms of growing spiritually and walking in love.

Be well informed that it is your duty to answer these questions and many others in your life. No one will do that for you as God has not given someone the entire responsibility of your life. Don't forget that others are also answering the same questions in their own lives too. God may use people on certain rare occasions to guide you when the need arises but the responsibility is entirely yours. He has given you the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide you to all truths about walking in love towards others.

Love is the climax. If you can love perfectly, then there is no fault in you. Some people have adopted the posture of affirming the impossible. God, however, discourages that position and commands you saying "*Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect*" (Mathew 5:48). Instead of opposing God's Word, trust the Holy Spirit to guide you to perfection.

Yes, it is true that the word perfect sounds a little strange and difficult, but that's what the Bible commands. What else did you want God to say? Certainly, what your itching ears want to hear, right? God has also said that without holiness no one will see Him (Hebrews 12:14). Will you always continue to argue with what God says? Will you continue to seek compromising interpretations of His Word? I hope and pray you will not do that.

This is not to discourage you but to raise your level of spiritual awareness to how much God's standards are being trampled upon by many who profess His Name. Many of God's children today don't believe all things as love commands. If



God says they are blessed, they accept and embrace it with all their hearts, meditate on it and announce it with big shouts of Hallelujah. However, if God says they should be perfect, they claim it is impossible and produce all sorts of excuses. Jesus, however, says “*all things are possible*” with God (Matthew 19:26) and that we can do all things because He strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

The things of the kingdom are serious, require diligence and a degree of suffering and endurance to acquire them. In a degraded world such as the one we live in today, the Christian’s journey is far from being a roller coaster ride. There must be a real distinction between a Christian and the worldly person. Instead of arguing against what God has said, get to work and trust Him diligently to fulfil His words in your life. When you trust God and are transformed by Him, He gives you indescribable abilities and power to do things His way. As you add to your faith Brotherly Kindness, Godliness, Perseverance, Self-Control, Knowledge and Virtue, ensure that all those foundations are erected in love. Love is what helps you to put all the broken pieces together and live a life of true faithfulness, fruitfulness, spiritual fulfilment and eternal peace in Jesus Christ on earth. May the Lord teach you how to love others in Jesus Name!



Conclusion

Although God is so compassionate and runs to our rescue when we trust in Him and call His name, He is clearly not the Author of confusion and endless desperation in the lives of many of His children. One thing God never forgot to do for his Children, is to bless them with a Book called the Bible which contains His will for them. However, God's children have either put the Bible aside or adding and subtracting from it to arrive at their own standards of operation. The Ecclesiast perfectly depicts this picture in his research work when he found out *"That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes"* (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Yes, God's children are not diligently seeking His will for their lives. That explains the reason why many are not bearing fruits that remain in the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit through Peter reveals that *"...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2 Peter 1:3-4). The exceeding, great and precious promises by which God's children are able to partake of the divine nature and escape the corruption of the world through lust are recorded in nowhere but the Bible.

Nevertheless, many of God's children are negligent and lazy. They don't want to search the Scripture. They hate diligent inquiry about the truth of God concerning every matter. Many are involved in theological arguments and knowledge display. God wants all His children to come back to the fundamentals of the truth. This foundational truth involves bearing fruits and living fulfilled lives in Jesus which many find in vain due to negligence and compromise.

God wants His children to bear fruits in this world and the seven things discussed above will enable you to live a fruitful life in Christ. Peter states this clearly when He says;

"...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our



Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-11).

The Bible reveals that if you diligently seek the things explained in all the chapters of this little book and abound in them, you will neither be barren nor unfruitful as a Christian. Now you can clearly see that the reason why many believers are confused, struggling with God and are unable to identify and accomplish God’s will for their lives is that they neglect doing these things. Once you abound in these things and continue in them, you cannot lack fulfilment in your life.

However, remember that no one will practice them for you. Moreover, you cannot bear godly fruits and find Godly fulfilment by your strength and might. The Holy Spirit must be your Guide and Assistant in the process. Therefore, put the broken pieces together and embark on your life’s journey to fruitfulness and fulfilment with God as the Main Pillar. God created you for a purpose and your tasks in the Great Commission Mission are waiting for you. Give God the opportunity to use you by trusting Him to abound in virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

May you never fail to bear fruits and find fulfilment in your life in Jesus Name!



Jesus, The Source Of Life And Fulfilment

Many are deceived to believe that it is possible to find fulfilment in material possessions and wealth. There is a common expression in the world that *'knowledge is wealth'*. This is a very misleading depiction of what true wealth is in the eyes of God. The Bible talks about Wisdom being the principal thing (Proverbs 4:7). Why? Well, in reality, Godly wisdom attracts wealth and material riches. However, that is not the main point. The main thing you should keep in mind is that Jesus is the wisdom the Bible talks about. *"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 1:30-31). Everything revolves around Jesus and this is an undeniable reality. If Jesus is not at the centre of your endeavours, your work is in vain. Jesus must be the Inspirer, Guide and Owner of your Christian mission and life on earth. He is the Master Project Manager of the Great Commission Project. He knows the tasks He assigns to each believer who seeks to walk with Him. Therefore, you owe everything to Jesus. You owe Him the report of your mission and the role you played after you leave this world.

Nevertheless, Jesus recognizes the fact that you cannot do what he has assigned to you except you are trained by Him. As worldly recruiters need competences and skills to accomplish specific tasks, spiritual competencies and experience are also needed to accomplish certain spiritual tasks. Hence, Jesus sacrificed His life for you not only to join His kingdom but also to be equipped with special spiritual abilities to do His will and accomplish your tasks in the Great Commission Project while on earth. If you have recognized your inability to move forward with your life and the limitations of strength and worldly things, you are certainly ready to receive Jesus in your life and live a fulfilling and formidable life in Him.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me. "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (Revelations 3:20-21).



***If you have not invited
Jesus in your life as Your
Personal Saviour, simply
call on Him NOW. He is
waiting for you to join
His kingdom and begin a
whole new chapter of
your life in His Kingdom.***

(Romans 10:9-13)

Remain Blessed!

