If someone you’ve not met before, someone you have not spend your time with, someone you’ve not communicated with and someone you have NO atom of intimacy with whispered into your heart “I love you no matter what.” How serious and committed will you take it?

But if this comes from your loved one then the cookies of your heart are warmed.

Someone very precious, very merciful, the one who neither changes nor lies, says:
“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”  Jer 31:3

**SERMON**

Two weeks ago, the mother of the House gave a word of exaltation titled “Draw Closer to God”. About half an hour later, we were in the office, and there was a knock on the door. And she said “Prince, come in”.

Curiously, I asked, “How do you know it is Prince?”

She said when your children are closer to you, you know them.

Prince, like every other child, is closer to his mother and she knows him.

There is someone who knows you before you see the light of this world, from your mother's womb.

How closer are you to Him?

The topic I am going to share with you today is:

- **Draw Closer To God & Have Intimacy with HIM.**

He said in Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

*We need Him and He desires us. "God desires us!" Yes! He wants us to draw closer to Him. He created us to fellowship with HIM and to enjoy everlasting relationship and peace.*

David was a rejected man. - He said " when my father and mother rejected me, Oh God you'll take me*

But he was a man after God's own heart, because he truly worshipped, magnified and glorified God in his heart! He drew closer to God in thought and doings.

And in the bush while taking care of the sheep he continued praising and magnifying God.

And he said

- **How excellent** is your name Oh Lord.
- **How lovely** is Your dwelling place, O Lord God, my King - *Ps 84:1*
  - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. - *Ps 19:1*
- **Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up,** ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who *is* this King of glory? The L ORD strong and mighty, the L ORD mighty in battle. *Ps 24:7-8*

  **And he continued saying:**
  - Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O L ORD, my strength, and my redeemer.- *Ps 19:14*
  - As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God - *Ps 42:1*
  - For You, my God, are my sun and shield: Blessed are those who trust in You! - *Ps 84*

Because he draws closer to God, God reveals things of the future and hidden treasures unto him.

And he said in *Ps 110:1*

The L ORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

God is willing to reveal to you hidden treasures, give answers to your problems and things to come.

**Draw closer to God and He will reveal to you answers to your problems.**

You have to become childlike - enough to believe the scriptures, act on your faith and thrill yourself with God's caress. We need to posses the attributes of a child.
Being like a child doesn’t mean wilful ignorance; it means to go back to the simplicity of a child’s heart.

**What are the attributes of a child?**

1. Children are dependent on their parents, are innocent, curious, receptive, full of wonder, not clouded by cynicism, naive, respectful and simple.
2. They have teachable hearts and don’t debate when they don’t agree with someone.
3. They may ask *warum?* and they might argue for a moment, but they will go on their merry way and get back to life.
4. They won’t lose any sleep over someone thinking they are wrong.
5. They have no problem with any criticism or what you think of them.
6. Children love to laugh; they smile when they are happy and cry when they are sad.
7. Children are simple and they don’t worry about every disease on the news and are every infomercial for the next great thing.

**EXAMPLE:** During one of our worship sessions last year, I accidentally hit and wounded Prince. He cried and I toasted him and he left to his brothers. And after service he came to me and we played together, he has forgotten the wound and pain caused by me.

*THAT IS A CHILD IN ACTION* - no bitter attitude and no malice because they forgive and forget quickly and move on with life.

If it were you and I, we shall start assuming, finding faults, binding and loosing etc.

8. Children love their parents, trust and believe their words and they feel secure, proud and confident because they draw close to them.

Tell a child about Father Xmas and/or the Nicholaus, they believe you.

When I was young, I was made to realize that masquerades are people from heaven coming down to make people happy during certain festivals. Watching and seeing their amazing performances which you as a youth never see someone doing the same, I believed. The environment also confirms this saying.

You see, **Parents and the Environment** have a big influence on one. Remember what our pastor always tell us - the people you associate yourself with have an enormous influence on your life.

Fathers, does your child feel good when you carry him/her on your shoulders?

God is waiting and ready to carry your burdens on His shoulders, hold your hands, and share your happiness and sorrow.

Ps 55:22 *Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*

**He is waiting for you to draw closer and have intimacy with Him.**

**James 4:8** *Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you*

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**What is intimacy?**

- Intimacy develops as a result of close contact with someone over a period of time.
- Intimacy is listening and hearing and being emotionally close to your partner.
- Intimacy is sharing of thought, love, heart, time, experiences and everything together.
- Intimacy is about being able to accept and share in your partner’s feelings, to be open and be honest with each other.

**Intimacy with God** is a privilege freely given to us by Christ in His sacrifice on the cross.

**Intimacy with God** produces revelation, elevation, success, progress, confidence, discovery and manifestation. Answers are given and dreams are born when you draw closer to Him.
Nothing ever takes God by surprise. He is aware of every aspect of our lives. He sees all and He can change your current position and situation within seconds. 

**Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

There is nothing in your heart or thoughts God wants you to hold back from Him. He doesn't want you to burden yourself with some yoke He longs to bear. He still loves us and desires us with an everlasting love. **Matthew 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Draw closer to God and encounter success, fellowship, breakthrough and everlasting joy. If you have encounter with Him your life will change. **Saul** have encounter with God and his life changed.

1) Do you desire to draw nearer to God?
2) Are you ready to get closer to God?
3) Will you let Him?
4) How close do you really want to get to Him?

**Do you want to verify if you desire and willing to draw closer to God?**

Add your year of birth and to your age this year together. **If the result is 2011, then you are a candidate.** Raise up your hand if this applies to you.

God is waiting on His throne for you to knock like Prince did and He is anxiously waiting to hear you’re knocking and to saying “my son/daughter come in.”

Let me share a summary of some steps that will help us to draw closer to God (WoDeNCoLOFaP)
I will elaborate on them as time permits:

1. The Word
2. Determination and Desire
3. Fear - Be not Afraid
4. Communication
5. Meaningless things - Lay them aside
6. Prayer, Worship and Praise
7. Faith
8. Obedience - Giving

**1. STUDY GOD’S WORD AND HAVE FAITH**

The Word contains the blessings, the visions, treasures, curses and the medicines for every act and event. God’s rules and regulations are packaged there in His Word.

What you need to succeed in life, to get to the next level, to climb up the ladder or to fall in the pit - all is there in His Word. **Mark13:31** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away

The word ignites fire in your heart and pushes you into fervent and effective prayers.

Put God’s word in the centre of your heart and mind. When you read the Word you are planting seeds in your spirit and later on you will have a good harvest if you let them fall on good soil.

The Psalmist said in **Ps 119:11** "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against God."

**Jere 23:29** Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

**Luke 20:18** whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder
It doesn’t matter if an egg falls on a coconut or coconut falls on the egg, one thing is sure the egg is destined to break and fall into pieces.

Therefore, it doesn’t matter whether your problems or your situation collides with the word or the word collides with your problem/situation. One thing is certain the situation must change.

2. **BE DETERMINED**

None of us can get through life without having determination.

*Note that some people are happy that you not happy.* Be determined and refuse to be distracted.

Strong determination is a goal-triggered firmness

People with strong determination in life are usually goal-oriented people. They cannot be undermined by negative principles and their inner strength is obviously manifested through their attitude toward challenges in life.

Living your life for the Lord requires determination.

Determination helps us:

- endure life’s storms, battle enticing temptation and persevere through terrible trials.
- prioritize and manage our time to maximize positive results

Determination is the tool we use to:

- defeat discouragement and produce patience
- overcome temporary failure to prevent failure from becoming permanent.
- feed our faith and starve our doubts to death.
- help us win in spite of our limitations
- dig ourselves out of a hole and reach our goals

But don’t let anybody’s opinion determine how you feel about yourself and don’t let them dictate the mood of your life.

*There is no encounter of God that goes scoot free.*

Provocation, hatred, opposition, criticism, disappointments are software packages and challenges designed to bring you to your destination and for you to receive your miracles.

*Criticism* is the greatest tribute failure pays to success and

*Opposition* is one of the packages for your elevation.

*Criticism, Opposition, Provocation and Hatred are computer virus in your life.*

When *virus* takes procession of your computer you do a cleanup and inject antivirus.

Therefore expect oppositions and criticism as you are climbing the ladder to the top.

You need someone to provoke you to receive your miracles.

*Jesus* was provoked, criticized, taunted, rejected and hated.

*Jephtha and Joseph* were hated by their brethren. They determined not to give up.

*Mordecai* was hated by Haman and had planned his execution but Mordecai prevailed.

*Hanna* was provoked by Peninna

1 Sam 1:6-7 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year.

*David* was hated by his brethren but was determined to face Goliath.

1 Sam 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither?
The blind Bartemaus determined to draw closer to Jesus and he received his miracle. The woman with the issue of blood determined to touch Jesus' garment, and she was healed. Never allow somebody to place limitations on your potential.

NOTE!! Whatsoever you allow on earth shall be allowed in Heaven and whatever you disallow on earth is disallowed in heaven (Matt 18:18)

See favour & great things ahead because: you can do all things through Christ which strengthened you Phil 4:13

3. Be Not Afraid.

Ignorance is one of the instruments the devil uses to deceive us.
Rom 10:3 For they, being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

And Fear is another weapon of the devil. "Be Not Afraid." Sayeth the Lord of Host.
This occurs about 365 times in the Scripture → for every day of the year and every morning when you wake up God is saying "Be Not Afraid."
Be Not Afraid of your current problems and situation

Before a product there must be a process. Before you rise you must fall.
To know deliverance you have to first have a disaster.
To know the miraculous you have to first be in a mess.
How can you glorify God if you've never had a problem?

- Adversity produces advancement,
- strength comes from struggle,
- muscle comes from Resistance,
- and trouble drives you to God.

Joseph was not afraid to tell his brethren of his dreams – he was hated by his brethren.
Daniel was not afraid to praise God with open windows despite the law of the king.

Ps 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

God lifted Jehu up in the midst of his brethren. He lifted Hanna up from her troubles. He delivered Daniel from the lion's den. He delivered Moddecai from the evil plan of his enemy Haman.

You'll be lifted up in the mighty name of Jesus

4. COMMUNICATION

Communication is very important in our relationship and in drawing closer to God. Communication is one person giving information to another.

You cannot communicate with someone who doesn't understand the language you are speaking.
If you cannot speak German, you cannot communicate with Germans. This is clear.

How do we communicate with our father in Heaven?

- Through prayer, worshiping and praises
But you must understand and speak God's language otherwise you'll miss everything together.

To communicate clearly with your partner you need to be clear about what you want to communicate and convey your message so that it can be received and understood.
Your partner must hear the message accurately and understand what you mean.
At any of the stages of communication, misunderstandings can occur.
Therefore avoid assumption - ask and clarify if the message is not clear.
In your marriage, at work and in all your undertakings never assume.

*Assumption* is the mother of mess-up.
It helps to develop unrest and triggers doubt & untrustworthiness. Avoid it.

Though Jesus knew the heart of the blind Bartemaeus, did not assume. He asked for clarification.

God want you to spell out your troubles, worries and visions while you communicate with Him.

5. **Lay Aside Meaningless Things**

- Is there something you know is wrong but refuse to give up?
- Is there unforgiveness or bitterness somewhere in your heart?
- Do you sit around and gossip and/or tear people down?
- Do you have roasted preachers/pastors for lunch and fellow brethren roasted at coffee time?

*Rumors* is the beginning of ruin and self destruction

*Assumption* is the mother of mess-up. It helps to develop unrest and triggers doubt & untrustworthiness.

*Procrastination* is the thief of time and the thief of opportunity.

Procrastination can help to delay one's life purpose, thereby thwarting one's success.

Those things will rob you of drawing closer to God.

Get rid of those things from your mind. *Remove* those things contrary to the Word of God from your heart.

*Prov 4:24-27* Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Do away with gossiping, checkout with the wrong people; stop wasting your time in doing unnecessary worldly things. **Come out from the world.**

Separate yourself from the things of the world. Fix your heart and mind on things above.

Whatever will not bring praise to God you better drop them and let your focus be God.

*Jeremiah 4:3* For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

When you begin to draw near to God, He will automatically draw near to you.

*Isaiah 55:7* Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let Him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

God is looking for a clean and empty vessel

Positive and negative self talk subsequently materializes by what is most evident.

Speak positive words to and about yourself every time.

Don’t cancel your destiny with your utterances.

Ability to use your tongue correctly and effectively is an asset in life.

*Prov 23:7* As a man thinketh so is he.
6. PRAYER, WORSHIP AND PRAISE

The different types of prayer.

- Prayer of authority
- Prayer of consecration
- Prayer of forgiveness
- Prayer of favour
- Prayer of enquiry
- Word-fired prayer - *Jer 23:29*

We need to know when to apply the prayers to fit our situation and our request from God.

When there is fire in a house you call the fire-fighter.
You don't call an ambulance when you need a fire-fighter.
You don't call fire-fighter when you need an emergency doctor.
You don't call an emergency doctor when there is a road accident.
For any of the above problem or situation there is a special number.

Nothing can stand in the way of the flood and nothing can stand in the way of sturm.
There is no flood-fighter, no sturm-fighter as we have fire-fighter.
You can't fight flood. You simply get out of its way otherwise it will carry you along.

Anyone that stands in the way of a train going on a speed of 150 kmh will surely not survive.
No daemon, no evil spirit and no problem can stand in the way of prayer.

Prayer is:

- your hotline to God to God's fire brigade, ambulance and emergency doctor
- the tools of the believer for setting the oppressed, the captives and the depressed free
- the tool that gives you access to God's glory
- the expression of the word of your mouth and heart in meditation towards God
- simply communicating with God - listening and talking to him

*Pastor Ashomolowo said* "Do not pray for those you gossip of and don't gossip of those you pray for".

In prayer we give praise, honour, glory and reverence to God's name for His greatness and goodness.

*Phil. 4:6-7* "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,"

Don't assume God knows what you want and what you are going through.
Pour your heart to Dog. Call and Hand over your troubles and problems to Him in prayer.

*Jer 33:3* Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Start each day by saying good morning to God.

*Psalm 5:3* says, "I lay my requests before you Lord in the morning, and I wait in hopeful expectation."

*1 Thessalonians 5:17* says, "Pray without ceasing."

- Daniel, Nehemiah, David, Samson, Jacob, Hanna and Esther all prayed to God and He answered them.
- Peter and Seiler were imprisoned, handcuffed and chained. They praised and worshipped God.
  God was moved and He sent earthquake to the foundation of the prison.

When you ask and there is no response, begin to worship God, calling Him by His names.
Then you ask again "Lord what are you saying?" You said in your Words "when you whisper I hear you; ask it shall be given; nobody ask his father for bread and receive stone". Speak God's language.
You are sure to get answer. *Jer 33:3*

*God is holy, righteous, and a loving Father, and He is worthy of our praise and worship.*
Finally

It doesn’t matter who you are, what your past was, what problems you are going through, the Lord is waiting anxiously for you to draw closer to him.

1. Moses was a murderer,
2. Jabez was the son of a prostitute,
3. Mary Magdalene was filled with daemons (Lk 8:2 Out of Mary were cast seven demons),
4. Paul who was Saul hunted and prosecuted Christians,
5. Rahab was a prostitute (Josh 2:1,6:17)
6. David was born out of illegitimacy, was forgotten by his own father and brethren

God wants to lift you up as he lifted David from the midst of his brethren.

Position yourself to listen, and He will speak in Jesus name.

God Bless You

Dipl.-Ing Rufus Dele Osuntuyi