



# REFOCUSING Summit 2014

## END TIME ERRORS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE YOUTH

It needs no debate that we are in the end time. Virtually everything around us points to this fact. Though, the natural man (unbeliever) will not understand this because it is a spiritual issue. The world only sees science and technological advancement, social and political breakthrough, just to mention but a few in respect of man's attainment of his full potentials. But from the light of the Word of God, a spiritual man sees the fulfillment of God's prophesy about the end time in all of these.

The devil has subtly attacked the Church and the majority of the church leaders are already, victims of the end time. It is sad to see many "Church denominations" springing here and there and that, on the foundations of heresies and errors which the Bible has forewarned us to take heed of in this end time. It is sadder still to see vast and great number of youth being

carried away by the storms and waves of these heresies. Why is it sadder for the youth? It is, because the devil seems not to leave them with a choice. Most of the present Church leaders, though, subtly dealt with by the devil had the choice not to be the victims of the end time. Many, if not all, got converted into the truth of the Word of God. They were brought up and nurtured in sound doctrines. But along the line, they began to derail and are today preaching errors and heresies. So, most of the youth of this generation are born and bred in errors and heresies. They never had the taste of the truth and sound doctrine. The devil has captured them right from birth under confused, illusive and heretic leaders.

The question one would like to ask is 'do they actually and truthfully have no choice?' I think they have a choice. If they do not have a choice, it means God will not hold them responsible at the end of the day. But from the light of the Word of God, no man (young or old: youth or adult) will have genuine and tenable excuse(s) before God.

What is the way out?

The one and only way out for every serious and ready minded youth is to go back to the drawing board and become another "berean" of this end time irrespective of their denomination and who their leader is. The Bible says "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These ("the berean") were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they:

- i. Received the word with all readiness of mind,
- ii. And searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10-11 Emphases added).

One of our problems in this part of the globe is that, we don't want to criticize our leaders (secular, political or religious leaders) at all. Meanwhile, the type of criticism I have in mind is a constructive and healthy one. We have always forgotten that leaders especially in Christendom are also men like us who are susceptible to mistake. We tend to believe and

take whatever they preach whether biblical or not. This attitude is not good! If Paul could preach (to the bareans) and the people could go and search the Scripture on daily basis to check if what Paul preached was true or not, how much more should we check our present Church leaders who are very far from attaining Paul's spiritual status. Be a Berean!

What is heresy?

This is any doctrine held by any Christian (irrespective of his status) which is at variance (in contradiction) with the Scripture. By this, I mean any principle, belief or doctrine that contradicts any part of the Scriptures (Bible). This could come by:

i. Misinterpretation of any part or the whole of the bible.

ii. Under-emphasis of any part of the Bible.

iii. Over-emphasis of any part of the Bible.

iv. Outright rejection of any part of the Bible as a result of who we are, what we want to be or achieve at any particular point in time. 1Timothy 4:1, 2 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times (end times) some shall depart from the faith (i.e. outrightly rejecting the truth of the Word of God), giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrine of the devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy..." (Emphases added)

Misinterpretation, inappropriate emphasis and outright rejection of the truth (Bible) have been since the inception of Christianity. However, the Bible says these will be the major characteristic of the end time. They will be more pronounced and breed heresies and errors so much that "...when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

In 1Timothy 3:1, the bible says "This know also,

that in the last days perilous time shall come" A Bible translation puts it that in the end time, it is going to be difficult to be a Christian. Why? Verse 2, "for men shall be lovers of their own selves..." This is what the whole world is preaching now- "self love" (selfism). This has also been borrowed into the "Churches". It appears under the title "Self Esteem". Self Esteem proponents will tell you to love yourself, appreciate yourself, believe in yourself, carry yourself high, cherish yourself, and blow your own trumpet, e.t.c against many scriptural passages that admonish us to deal with our ego (self/flesh). Of such scriptural passages are Luke 9:23 "And He (Jesus) said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (emphasis added). Philippians 2:3 says "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Emphasis added) Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 5:25-



# WHAT SHALL WE SAY ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU BID THIS WORLD GOODBYE?

I always ask myself whenever I remember the above question that “What have I done so far for GOD since I gave my life to HIM”? Have I fulfilled or am I fulfilling the purpose for my creation? Have I blessed that life? Have I changed that person? Have I done that thing? Have I made that impact? Have I solved that problem? Have I corrected that attitude? Will my life be like a serpent that passed over the rock but made no impact or like the one that passed over the sand and made impact? Will I be able to say as Brother Paul said in 2 Tim. 4v7 (NIV) that, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith?” Really, these questions may be too much, but they will help us or help our INNER MAN to awake from slumber. There are GENERALS (Both in the Bible and now) that we love to talk about. In fact, most of us love to emulate them. But ask yourself, will people love to covet or be identified with you with the way you are running this race? Brethren, we don't have any excuse for not doing well. The storms of life or situations you find yourself are never a big deal before GOD. Some people have experienced such and even worse than yours and yet moved on joyfully and faithfully in their Christian journey. Have you forgotten 2 Cor. 4v17 which says that “for our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”. Has anybody stoned you for CHRIST's sake as they stoned Brother Stephen even to death? Do you remember mummy Hannah (the widow in Luke) and the 3 Hebrews, to mention but a few? With these, I think you can now see that your problem should not be a deterrent to serving God acceptably.

If you may ask, what then can I do to fulfill purpose? There are three things you should note aside other things. These three (3) things are LIMITATION, IMITATION & TIME (LIT).

**a. Limitation:** Most times, we allow people's opinion to count than GOD's opinion. We allow people to discourage us from doing what GOD is leading us to do. GOD is telling you to go on a mission but people are telling you to use your certificate to work. GOD is telling you to use your voice for HIM and all you need is to train your voice if it is not good but men are telling you that your voice is not good when

singing, that there are many other things you can do besides singing. GOD wants you to be a teacher but men told you that you are not capable enough. On the other hand, we also can limit the move of GOD through fear, timidity etc. When the Word of GOD tells us in Rom. 8v15 that “for you did not receive the spirit that makes you a slave again to fear but you receive the spirit of sonship”. 2 Tim. 1v7 also said “for GOD did not give us the spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline”. BRETHREN, PLEASE DON'T BURY THAT GIFT INSIDE OF YOU. There are ways you can display the gift in you. YOUR GENERATION IS WAITING FOR YOUR MANIFESTATION. Wake up today, and the LORD will help you

**b. Imitation:** As I said earlier on, GOD knows what you are capable of doing. He has deposited something special in you. For instance, you know you have the gift of writing or serving others, but you decided to become a prayer warrior simply because you want to be seen by people. Please, tell me if such person would be fulfilled. Will he or she not have problem? NOT UNTIL YOU STAND BEFORE THE CONGREGATION BEFORE THE FIRE IN YOU IS KINDLED. STOP IMITATING PEOPLE, PLEASE BE YOURSELF. Don't turn yourself to Mr., Mrs. or Miss Photocopy. Rather, imitate CHRIST as Ephesians 5v1 says “be imitator of GOD, therefore, as dearly beloved children”.

**c. Time:** Ecc. 3v1 said “There is time for everything and season for every action under heaven”. How do you schedule your 24 hours? How many hours do you have for GOD, and any other thing? You cannot go far, be a role model, be that light, be that leader and be a solution to your generation if you don't have enough time for and with GOD. Finally, brethren, Pro. 13v1 says “a wise son heeds his father's instruction but a mocker doesn't listen to rebuke”. Please, choose today the son you wish to be out of the two, the wise or the mocker? May we not fail our generation in JESUS NAME. Amen. LOVE YOU.

Timilehin, Alade

**J**esus emphatically told his disciples who have been with him for quite sometimes that: "...where I go you know, and the way you know" John 14: 4. But Thomas one of the disciples objectively told him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" John 14: 5. Thank God for Bro. Thomas, he did not claim to know what he did not know, he opened up! The answer Jesus gave him revealed the mind of God for one to be saved. I pray you get it right (amen); but you have to allow God's words to deal with your ego.

So many Christians are like Thomas who 'followed' Jesus for a long period of time but was ignorant of his way and work of salvation. They claim to be a worker, choir member, choir master or mistress in a well known church. They do say "I was born to a Christian home; I have been baptized with water" but with no assurance of salvation. Nobody comes to the father with what he claims to have — certificate of baptism, title, position, religious zeal etc. All these cannot make man to see God. They can only make one to be a moralist. Jesus in John 14: 6 says "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me".

Dear friend, Jesus has gone to prepare a place in His father's house where many

# THOMAS EXEMPLIFIED

mansions are, but not for those who do not believe the gospel. If your heart will not be troubled, you must believe in God, believe also in Christ. The gospel invitation is an appeal and a command to repent and follow Christ, the truth and the way. You have a call! And that is a call to discipleship; to turn from sin and embrace God's righteousness. Repentance, confession and submission to Christ as Lord are necessary elements of true saving faith. You must turn from sin to Christ. Rom 10: 9 "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved". To believe is to obey, and not to desire to obey means you do not believe.

Conclusively, those whose names are written in the book of life are repentant sinners who believe the gospel. Are you among them?

**Akinade, Taiwo O.**

# KNOWING HIM THAT IS FROM THE BEGINNING!

“ I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one”. 1John 2:12-14

## LITTLE CHILDREN

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world”. 1 John 2:1-2. Children are with attribute of struggling with sin, and need to understand that their sins have been forgiven for His name's sake. 1Jh 2:12. This should be settled in the heart of children, that overcoming sin is by understanding that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins. These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin; confess and thank Jesus Christ who has paid for your sins.

Hiding sin is a sign of being babyish (idiot) in understanding of the mystery of Christ. As you walk around in the world, though you have bath, your feet can still be soiled, put it down to be washed, else, you have no part with Christ. The church had been charged to wash the feet of one another; but you must put your feet down. John 13:1-15. This is not talking of the feet you are using

to walk around from one place to another; it your spiritual feet (watching and making each other's life better). You declare your attachment to Christ when you expose sin and by this you detach yourself from sin that comes to you and you cleanse yourself from soil of the world. Do not let sin stay with you by keeping it. Detach yourself from it and re-attach yourself to Jesus.

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. It is not your righteousness (sinlessness) that makes you acceptable to God; it is Christ. Remove your eyes from your yesterday, today or tomorrow's righteousness. Remove your eyes from your yesterday, today or tomorrow's weakness. But look unto Jesus, your strength or your weakness amount to nothing. But Christ is our all in all. Rejoice only in Him. Expose sin and say shame to you (sin), for sin shall have no dominion over you again. Do not sin, but if you sin EXPOSE it and thank the Lord for he is propitiation for your sin. “For, we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh”. Philipians 3:3. You can also grow to adulthood by keeping the Word of God in your heart that you might not sin against God. Ps. 119:11. Young men (adult) are strong and the Word of God dwells in them.

## YOUNG MEN

“I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one”. 1John 2:14

Young men are strong, are you among?

They are those that can enter into a strong man's house, and first bind the strong man and then spoil his house. Mt. 12:29.



26 "if we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (emphasis added). Living bible translation puts it this way "If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings."

One popular man of God in Nigeria writes in one of his books titled "Be the best, Be the very best": "You are to love your neighbor like yourself, not more than yourself. Be number one and wish your neighbor the best" (Mark 12:30-31). Is that what the Bible teaches us? To be number one and just wish others (our neighbors) the best? What best can a child of God be than to be like Christ? If what he wrote is right, what of the scriptural passage that says: "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." And how should we love? "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12-13). I John 3:16; "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (emphasis added). This means, we should love ourselves (as Jesus does) to the extent of laying down our lives for one another. Jesus never taught us to "be number one and wish other people the best".

In fact, Christianity is not about being the best or being number one. It is not about competition and comparison. It is all about being what God wants one to be and this may not be the best as desired by man. We are members of a body and no member is the best or number one. We have different purposes to fulfill, and that, not in comparison with another. The bible talks about people running a race but only one receives the prize. This is not talking of competition nor is it saying Christians should run to beat other Christian fellow. If we all run well, we will all get the prize. It is all about running well and getting the prize, not running to be the first. It is about doing God's will in our lives, not minding the cost and conditions - Head or tail, death or life, poverty or abundance.

From the same book, the man of God also states "Don't criticize greatness, admire it. What you admire is what you ultimately become. Those who admire mountain tops usually end up there. 2 Kings 2:23-24; 2 Kings 2:9-15". Is this also true? The Bible makes us to understand that not all greatness come from God. Are we just to admire greatness even if it is not from God? "What you admire is what you will ultimately become". Is this the teaching of the Bible? What if what we admire is not the will of God for our lives? This is one of the errors of the end time. They call it "law of attraction." At times they will tell you that 'whatever your heart can conceive and you can believe it strongly enough; you will have it' whatever your heart can conceive? When the Bible says the heart of man is desperately wicked.

God warned Baruch in Jeremiah 45:5 "And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not, for behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the Lord: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest". In 1 Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is a great gain." In verse 7, it says "for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Verse 8 crowns it all "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." Verse 9 warns against admiring greatness (the desire to be great) as prosperity and greatness preachers are teaching us today. It says "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men into destruction and perdition." Jesus also warns against covetousness in Luke 12:15 "And He said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Jesus promise to give us "abundant life". But this has been misinterpreted in terms of wealth and health. What God promised us about material things are food and raiment- the basic needs of life as quoted from 1 Timothy 6:8. Abundant life is not about wealth and health. It is about the life of Christ in us. Are we now saying a child of God cannot be rich in material things? No!

What we are saying is that we should leave that to God. He can make any of His children rich for a purpose and to His own glory. Greatness, riches, wealth are from him. He gives to whoever He wants to fulfill His purpose and not for that person's personal consumption. Ours is to do whatever He wants us to do and leave the rest for Him. It is not about desiring or admiring it, nor is it about attracting it. It is not about being optimistic or pessimistic. It is about the will of God. This is Biblical faith!

Another error which we need to address is "positive confession". Bible never taught us positive or negative confession. The advocates of this heresy twisted Psalms 82:6 which say "I have said, ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High". Another well known servant of God in Nigeria and beyond writes in explaining this verse in a book titled "WINNING INVISIBLE BATTLES" on page 50 "Ye are gods! This is the basis for supernatural: you are no longer human but super human, super, extra-natural. You should no longer see yourself as an ordinary human being. That's not the truth. The truth is that you are a son of God, and as a result, you are a god". On page 51 of the same book he writes "Ye are gods! This is a vital truth that reveals your divinity, placing you in the very class of God". He writes again on page 45 "Now your ways are past finding out (John 3:8)". How do we explain these errors? Before any further explanation of this verse, has man ever been and can man ever be in the very class of God as postulated in this book? This is the same postulation many other prosperity preachers of today are preaching. They always add that, if you are a god, you can create your own world, order your own circumstances, and direct or redirect (determine) your own destiny. Just speak and it will come to pass.

The simple explanatory note of this verse in "Hebrew Greek key word study Bible" (King James version) sums it up as: "The solution to this misinterpretation of these words is found in the proper interpretation of the word for "god" in Hebrew. It is the word "elohim" which is used of God referring to His office as a Judge and Diviner of Justice. In the establishment of the office of the Judge in the Old Testament (O.T), men were given the responsibility of representing this office of God. Thus the usage of the term "elohim" would not be confusing to one who understands that the man merely represents Jehovah. In this psalm, however, God is condemning those who had perverted justice and had abused their God-given privilege to hold the office of a judge. The warning given in verse seven is that though they be "gods", though they hold this honorable office among men to rule over them as God's representative, yet they are but men and will die like other men... No other names of God, and in particular such names as Jehovah (Exodus 3:14), El-Shaddai (Genesis 17:1) or Yah (Psalm 68:4), are ever used for human beings. These names speak of or represent God's essence and attributes, of which man shall never partake. This fact is seen in conclusion of verse six where it is stated that "all of you are children of the most High", meaning that though they represent God, they are held accountable and responsible to Him for their actions.

This positive confession is the same that makes the preachers of it misapply Joel 3:10 the last sentence that says "...let the weak say I am strong." When they are ill or sick and you ask them what is wrong with them, they will tell you "they are strong." When you go to them asking for money and they don't have, they would not want to tell you they are "broke" or they don't have money. They will tell you "they are very rich". Is Joel 3:10 talking about positive confession? No! It is a different scenario entirely.

In conclusion, we cannot exhaust all these end time heresies in this single article but we trust the Holy Spirit to guide you through. End time is real and all prophecies about it must surely come to pass. The only way out is to be a "Berean" who searches the Scriptures daily with an open mind and not with preconception of ideas. "He that has an ear let him hear" what the Holy Spirit is saying in order not to be a victim of the end time accident.

# STAND FIRM IN THE LORD

**A**ccording to Oxford dictionary, to stand means to maintain a position, avoid falling, moving, or being moved. "... My brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved" (Philippians 4:1). As a youth in this end time, you must take cognizance of the fact that there are a lot of things that are contending with your faith. So many things are purposefully designed by the devil to sweep your feet off the track of faith — the system of the world, choice of friends, choice of marriage partner etc.

## System of the world

Devil is the chief designer of the system of this world. Loving this world (the system) is very dangerous to spiritual health and that equally depicts that you do not love God. 1 John 2:15-16 "Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you... For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world." Do not forget that we are in the world but not of the world. As a Christian youth, you are to stand firm in the Lord. You should not copy the behavior and customs of this world (Romans 12:2).

## Choice of friends

This is one of the things that can help you to maintain your stand in the Lord and it can also easily kick you off-balance. Your friends have influential power on virtually every aspect of your life. If you keep godly friends, it is to your advantage because it is like iron that sharpens iron. But if you keep ungodly friends, they will of course influence you to derail and lose your first love for the Lord. Do not yoke yourself with unbelievers. Please, watch the kind of friends you make and keep.

## Choice of marriage partner

Thousands of youths have buried their zeal and love for the Lord at the point of choosing marriage partners. So many youths shipwrecked their faith because they did not allow God to choose for them. In order to marry wealthy partners, so many Christian sisters are hooked to unbelieving brothers. Please note that, the choice of whom to marry is a very sensitive issue in the life of every youth. This sound terrific but you do not need to



fear. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and He will direct your paths". Do you really love God? If you do, please wait on Him to choose the right partner for you. His choice is the best for you.

Conclusively, it is very hard to be a true Christian this time. 1 Timothy 6:11-12 "... follow what is right and good. Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for what we believe. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you..." Be ready to stand for the truth in the time of persecution and always. No matter what, Jesus is able to keep you till the end. Take heed and continue in the things you have learnt of the Lord. Please, do not go away; do not allow anything separate you from Christ's love. Remain in HIM and bear fruits.

AKINADE, Esther O.

## UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU

**M**an is created to bring pleasure to God. He is to be an object of joy to the Most High. But it is a pity that man ate the forbidden fruit. Now sin changed pleasure to grief for the creator. It saddens His heart daily and man's thought is evil continually, yours included.

Have you known the way back to God? Or you wish to know? The only provision/way to come into relationship with your savior is to believe that Jesus the son of God died to save you from wrath of God which is to come on the ungodly. Christ is still waiting, having done all to redeem sinners to see His life completely formed in your action and speech.

Dorcas Alamu

Those that master the use of their weapons of warfare through God for the pulling down of strong holds 2Cor. 10:4.

They are those that give no place to the devil: that can keep their palaces, and goods in peace: that no one stronger than they can come upon them, and overcome them, and take from them all their armours wherein they trusted, and divide their spoils for greater than he that dwell in the world is in them. Luk. 11:22; IJohn 4:4.

They are those that can quench the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Heb. 11:34.

They are those that grow, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon them Luke 2:40.

They are those through faith in His name can make others strong, Act 3:16.

They are those that can bear the infirmities of the weak. Rom.15:1.

They are those that stagger not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; Rom:4:20:

They are those that can watch, stand fast in the faith and quit like men. 1Co:16:13.

They are those that are strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph. 6:10.

They are those that are strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2Tm:2:1.

They are those that can offer up prayers and supplications with strong cry and tears unto him that is able to save them from death Heb:5:7.

They are those who are fools for Christ's sake, being reviled but bless; being persecuted but suffer it: being defamed but entreat 1Co:4:10, 12-13:

They are those that can take strong meat and not milk, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. . Heb:5:12, 14:

### **KNOWING HIM THAT IS FROM THE BEGINNING**

This type of youth will become the kind of father the Bible talks about below.

“I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known

him that is from the beginning” .

Oh! What a great knowledge that amounts to maturity, that counts one to be called father. Knowing HIM that is from the beginning, and in the beginning and is the beginning (1Jh 1:1, Jh. 1:1, col. 1:18.)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men”. Jh 1:1-4.

“I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known “THE WORD” that is from the beginning” . Knowing the WORD – A Person, not a teaching nor a doctrine nor an application nor theology is the utmost. Any doctrinal, application or theological knowledge that does not lead to the knowledge of Him (who is the Word) is futile etc. Mature people that can be looked unto to help young men and children are those that have known the Person of the WORD. They know the Word. They can stand in His Name. They can speak in His Authority. Rivers of Life flows in and from them.

Fathers can speak as John speaks: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full”. 1Jh 1:1-4.

They have seen with their eyes and whatever they looked into, light penetrates and life is released into it. They hear with their ears and not judge by human feelings. They have handled the Word and their little touch of anything or anyone is life giving. They bear witness not an opinion or idea or view. They show eternal life not an experience. What a wonderful maturity! Knowing HIM that is from the beginning!

**Toyin Bolarinwa**

# What and Whom Do You Believe?

For one reason or another, it is not possible for us to witness some major and very important events in our lives. We have to be told by and rely on others of the details of such events. At times, some of us may need to ask questions from more reliable sources to find out the truth or otherwise of what we have earlier believed. What is however applicable to all of us is that we must believe and know these truth from someone else! For instance, we know how old we are, our place of birth and a few other things relating to these from our parents. And how do we know our biological parents? How are we sure they are our real fathers and mothers when we did not actually see the event and act of our birth? Obviously, we were told by them or others, and we simply believed them!

On the other hand, spiritual matters are even more impossible for us to prove with our eyes and other human senses. We just have to find out the truth from a higher source and believe what we are told. But we can never find out the truth

from ourselves. And sadly enough, we cannot get it from other men ordinarily. They don't know the truth. The truth is far above human knowledge. And human beings hardly understand it. Different people say different things about life. Many conflicting theories and philosophies abound about what and what not to do. One person says this is right and another says it is not! So what and who should one believe?

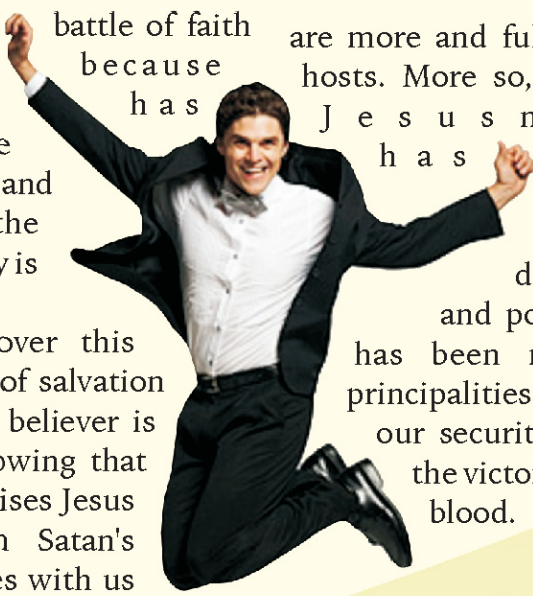
One thing I will like the reader to get from this piece is that, truth is not popular. You may need to walk a lonely path to find what and whom to believe. God is the only authentic source of truth. From Him alone we can get vital information about life and how to live. Whatever anybody says must conform to His word to be true. So check the Bible (like the bereans – Acts 17: 10-11) to confirm what and whom you believe. The Bible is the only Word of God we have as the final authority, Shalom!

Stephen Abimbola

## Assurance of Victory

Christians have a battle of faith to fight. This is because our master Jesus has an enemy, against whom he had launched an attack and defeated by His death on the cross of Calvary. His enemy is our enemy.

Now we have victory over this enemy through the work of salvation which Jesus has done. A believer is not expected to fear. Knowing that the security and the promises Jesus gives are stronger than Satan's threat. The heavenly forces with us



are more and fully armed than the devil's hosts. More so, no battle ever overcome Jesus neither will any do. Jesus has delivered us from the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13). He has disarmed the principalities and power (Colosians 2:15). He has been made the head for all principalities and power. He guarantees our security. Therefore, match on in the victory won for us through Jesus blood.

Dorcas Alamu