

MARK KIYAGA

OVERCOMING

of the
Spirit of

the
ACCUSER

OF
OUR
BRETHREN

Overcoming the spirit of the accuser of our brethren

OVERCOMING THE
SPIRIT OF THE ACCUSER
OF OUR BRETHREN

MARK KIYAGA

BOOK TITLE: OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF THE ACCUSER OF OUR
BRETHREN

Copyright 2022 by MARK KIYAGA

Website: redeemedlifeministries.org

Contacts: 0200909011 / +256-772-400-490

ISBN: 978-9970-519-47-4

Receive a free monthly magazine “The Speaking Life” from Redeemed Life
ministries by writing to us;

Email Address: [redeemedlifewriters@gmail.com](mailto:redemedlifewriters@gmail.com)

Contact: +256-705234648

Note: All the Layout, Cover Design, and Editorial in this book is done by Wilsdom Books and Publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other without the prior permission of the Author and the publisher. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture is taken from the Holy Bible New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society; King James Bible (Cambridge Edition). New King James Version @ 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. The Scofield Reference Bible, Authorized King James Version, Oxford University Press, Inc., Copyright at 1909, 1917, copyright renewed, 1937, 1945 and; New Living Translation and; New American Standard Version @ 1995

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT -----	5
DEDICATION -----	6
INTRODUCTION-----	7
CHAPTER ONE	
Accusation Defined-----	13
CHAPTER TWO:	
Accusation In the Bible -----	19
CHAPTER THREE:	
Causes Of Accusations -----	29
CHAPTER FOUR:	
Responding To Accusations -----	39
CHAPTER FIVE:	
Overcoming Accusations-----	49
CHAPTER SIX:	
Finding Healing from Church Accusations-----	57
CHAPTER SEVEN:	
How Church Leaders Deal with Accusations----	71

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank my dear wife Margaret, first son Jeremiah, other lovely children; Christiana, Jesse, Mercy, and the rest of my family for their tireless, selfless and loving support personally, spiritually, and mentally.

I am grateful to the family, partners and well-wishers of Redeemed Life Ministries, headquartered in Bunamwaya, Kampala (Uganda). Their honor of the calling of God on my life and subjection under its leadership has blessed my life, family and ministry.

I above all thank the Holy Spirit whose leading has been a sure direction into the destiny of God for my life. He knows the way.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Body of Christ.

This book is dedicated to every one that has ever faced accusation and therefore would want to gain knowledge on how to best handle it.

INTRODUCTION

It is a traumatizing experience to be falsely accused, to be misrepresented, to be maligned, or be slandered. Being falsely accused is no doubt one of the most painful realities that we face in life. Jesus warned us of this reality (Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-26).

According to Revelation 12:10, Satan is referred to as the accuser of our brethren before our God, day and night. His most frequent and insistent attack to which we are vulnerable is accusation.

At times Satan uses temptation and accusation as a brutal ‘knock-out’ punch. He comes along and says, “Why don’t you try it? Everybody does it. Besides, you can get away with it. Who’s going to know?” Then as soon as we fall for his tempting line, he changes his tune to accusation: “What kind of a Christian are you to do such a thing? You’re a pitiful excuse for a child of God. You’ll never get away with it. You might as well give up because God has already given up on you.”

This brings us to the most treacherous tool Satan uses in the church – the tongue. The human tongue has done more damage and caused countless heartaches than any other source of trouble. What we say cuts far deeper than any knife or sword. The bible occasionally presents the tongue as-an instrument that thrusts its way into others’ lives causing deep, lingering hurt. We are not surprised, therefore, to read of the sin of lying in the list of the Ten Commandments, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).

In Proverbs, Solomon included seven things the Lord hates. Among them, “A false witness who utters lies” (Proverbs 6:19). Nevertheless, liars are still on the loose. If you have suffered the brunt of someone’s lying tongue, more

specifically, if you have been falsely accused, you do not need me to describe the pain it brings. You have not only been there but discovered how difficult it can be to defend yourself. You try, but folks are hard to convince once they've heard convincing lies. The venom from a poisoned tongue has already taken its toll. Tragically, churches can be a feeding ground for loose lips and lying tongues.

It takes courage to stand up to liars. No wonder in John 8:44, Satan is called the father of lies: '... You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.'

Almost everyone has experienced Satan's lying, hateful voice in our hearts and consciences. He never seems to give up. Many Christians are perpetually discouraged and downcast because they succumb to persistent lies about them. And those who give in to his accusations end up being robbed of the life of freedom that God intends His people to enjoy. Unfortunately, while we try to rescue someone from the dangers of condemnation and accusation, our fellow brethren are slowly taking the accuser's place. This then makes the counseling and deliverance ministry even off line because we now have taken a role that is not ours. Thus, many people within the body of Christ are battling with depression from wounds that have been inflicted on them by church itself. Could this be the explanation to the paradox that there are more people leaving church today than they come in? It is harder to get someone back into church than a new convert. We have many former Christians who were wounded by church. We have many un-churched Christians who were chocked by church. We have many Christians in church who are gasping for breath, believing God to get through the next Sunday or Wednesday Service. Pastors are bleeding

because of the sheep and the sheep are bleeding because of the pastor. Where are we doing wrong?

It is time that church revisits the reason why Christ came. To save not to condemn. To show love through his atoning death. To give us his very self; by his Grace not condemnation (John 3:17).

In John 8:10-11: Jesus, challenged by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law when they brought to him a woman they had caught in adultery; He bent down and wrote something on the ground. Then asked the accusers if they had never sinned to throw a stone to her.

All the accusers calmed their rage for judgment, dropped their stones and walked away. Jesus lifted up himself and saw none but the woman, then said unto her, “Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?” But to avoid the worst, he was quick to add, “... Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.”

If the author of our faith in God, our Lord Jesus Christ, was as accommodative as in the scripture above yet wisely aiming at communicating the truth to the accuser and the accused; we need to learn to strike this balance in handling accusation yet ministering truth to the accuser and the accused. This book helps us to get to this. Such a delicate balance is what the church needs to be able to ride on above accusations, from inside and outside church. Until we mature to a level of dealing with accusation without losing the focus of taking the gospel of Christ to people, church will remain challenged in the areas of church growth, community impact, spiritual depth and true revival.

Chapter One

ACCUSATION DEFINED

According to Cambridge Dictionary, an accusation is a statement or claim asserting that someone has done something improper, illegal or morally wrong. The one who makes the accusation is an accuser while the subject against whom it is made is the accused. The bible on the other hand refers to Satan as the author of the Spirit of accusation; according to Revelation 12:10, “ ... for the accuser of our brethren ... “.

Different kinds of accusations

From the definition above, an accusation is not a good thing and certainly leaves relationships broken or upset. This is because, most accusations are false.

False Accusations:

A false accusation is a claim or allegation of wrong doing that is untrue and or otherwise unsupported by facts. These are unfounded or baseless unintentional that ruin a person’s life creating real consequences, even criminal. False accusations can be divided into two categories: intentional and unintentional.

Intentional Accusations:

An intentional accuser is someone who knowingly accuses an innocent person. For instance; the accuser could create a ‘sexual assault story’ from having had consensual sex with the accused but does not want to deal with the ‘problems’ of cheating on a marital partner or getting into trouble with family. Therefore, this accuser is motivated by self-preservation hinged on fear and thus manipulation. In other circumstances, the accuser is merely narcissistic, willing to destroy someone else’s life for the sake of attention and malice. Typically, this accuser is a compulsive liar, and their narcissism stems from a mental disorder, spiritual imbalance or merely dishonesty.

Unintentional Accusations:

An unintentional accuser is someone who unknowingly accuses an innocent person. This is psychologically complex. In some cases, this accuser was assaulted but forgot who assaulted them. Later, a given person’s smile or voice triggers a flashback, causing them to wrongly accuse one who triggered the flashback; leading to a false accusation.

In other cases, authorities unintentionally lead the victim to accuse their top suspect. The police evidence mixed with their suspicions will cause the victim’s brain to formulate memories that never existed. Therefore, the accuser will identify the suspect as the one who committed the crime, based on faulty memories. When someone recalls a memory that never occurred, it is called confabulation.

Unfortunately, this can be the hardest accusation to revert, as police typically have reason to believe that the suspect committed the crime. When this

‘evidence’ is mixed with the confabulation of the victim, nothing but concrete evidence proving otherwise (the accused’s innocence) can revert the charge.

Ill-intention Accusations:

Some accusers do it out of fear or love for attention, others do it because they are confused and do not know better. This ill intention or bad motive compels them to make up accusations about someone.

Different levels of accusation in the Body of Christ

1. Accusations from the world towards the Church

These are accusations that come from people who are not part of the body of Christ towards those who are. For example, accusations in the media about church or people in the church are in most cases biased from a level of lack of knowledge about how church really operates. So, in most cases they come out with their shallow views and complaints which are judgmental statements over church.

2. Accusations within the church

These are accusations that come from people within the church. The believers accuse other believers! This is quite surprising yet it happens. These usually come from misunderstandings and wrong attitudes within the church. Most likely, no matter how we preach against, work around, or avoid accusations, they will arise.

a) Accusations within the church believers

These accusations happen amongst the church congregation.

b) Accusations from congregants towards the leaders

These accusations happen between believers and their leaders. When the believers focus on the leader's weakness, misunderstand or misinterpret the leader's intention or words; accusation starts. If not, this level of accusation can come from merely the disloyalty spirit that is affecting a certain group of believers.

c) Accusations between the church leaders

These accusations happen between leaders of the same church or between churches. This the most striking kind of accusation tarnishing the image of the church before the world. It is expected that leaders should be knowledgeable in practice of their ministry vocations. Unfortunately, the dynamics that come from the effects of accusation demand different ways of dealing with the matter, but it should always be bible based.

3. Accusations from the church leaders towards the believers

These accusations are very unfortunate however they happen as the leader tries to protect him or her self from whatever has happened; especially evading responsibility for their action.

Chapter Two

ACCUSATION IN THE BIBLE

There is a kind of strength one receives when they realize that they are not the only ones going through the hell of accusation. If you are not the first, thus, you will overcome like the rest. There are many incidences of accusations and lies today, even as it was in the bible days. Here are a few biblical examples of victims of unfair and damaging sentiments:

Joseph (Genesis Chapter 37 to 50)

Joseph became familiar with a completely different culture, and earned a place of great responsibility as the manager of Potiphar's belongings. Yet at the height of his rising, Joseph was accused of rape by Potiphar's wife. He wound up in jail (Genesis 39:7).

David (1st & 2nd Samuel)

David, after killing the Goliath and demonstrating a life of courage and integrity, he was falsely accused of trying to dethrone King Saul by the king himself. David became a fugitive for a dozen or more years (1 Samuel Chapter 18 to 31).

Nehemiah

Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around ancient Jerusalem. Just before the project reached completion, several of his enemies (Sanballat and Tobiah) spread the word that he had an ulterior motive; that he was building the wall to seek the welfare of the children of Israel (Nehemiah 2:10).

Naboth & Job

Naboth was falsely accused by Queen Jezebel of blaspheming God and the King Ahab (1st Kings 21:9-13). Satan accused Job of serving God for profit (Job 1:9,10; 2:4,5).

Paul, Peter & John

Paul was accused of being a phony convert shortly after his conversion. The apostles would not even allow him in their circle being suspicious about his conversion. He was later accused of causing a dissension among all the Jews. Peter and John were accused of preaching a false Christ (Acts 11:1-18).

Jesus

Jesus is referred to as; “a man of sorrows ... “(Isaiah 53:3). Much of His sorrow and grief was spawned by false accusations. From His earliest months in public ministry, He was accused of being of illegitimate birth. During His incredible ministry, He was accused of being a drunkard because He sat and ate with sinners (Matthew 11:19). The Pharisees also accused Him of being demon-possessed, an instrument of Satan, as He healed people. Ultimately, He

went to the cross due to false accusations of blasphemy and dissention (Matthew 26:57-68).

Why people make accusations

Regarding false accusations, the psalmist says, “For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit” (Psalms 35:20). This is an accurate description of the motives and results of false accusations. People lie about the innocent in order to stir up trouble. This happens on every level of society, from the streets of your local community into the halls of church, government and co-operate embodiments. People accuse others falsely as a revenge tactic, power play or self-gain. Needless to say, this behavior is unbiblical and a show of injustice.

Accusations bring judgment to the accuser

The command against making false accusations is one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:16). According to Mosaic Law, someone who accused another person falsely was to receive an ironic punishment: “The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother.

So, you shall purge the evil from your midst” (Deuteronomy 19:18-19).

The Law also specified that the punishment of a false witness was to be carried out without pity (Deuteronomy 19:21); it is a serious thing in God’s eyes to make a false accusation. The folly of making a false accusation is illustrated in the book of Esther. A man named Haman, a nobleman in the court of King

Ahasuerus, devised a plot to frame a Jew named Mordecai and have him hanged on gallows fifty cubits high. Haman sought to ensure Mordecai's death by means of false accusations. Haman devised this plot just because he hated Jews. He especially hated Mordecai being jealous of a favor Mordecai had received from the king. But Haman's plot was found out, and the punishment for his treachery was poetic justice-he was hung on the very gallows he had constructed for Mordecai (Esther 5:9-14; 6:4). Those who make false accusations are under God's judgment (Psalms 5:6).

As followers of Christ, we can expect that people will sometimes make false accusations against us, but remember Jesus' encouragement: "Blessed are you when people ... falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:11-12). No matter what others say about us falsely, we rely on God's Word: "Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law" (Psalms 119:69-70).

Judgment for accusation is replaced by the Grace through Repentance

As partly explained above; Jesus Himself faced false accusations from the Pharisees and their followers. Isaiah prophesied this when he said of the Messiah, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). Even Pilate, the Roman governor who oversaw Jesus' sentence, knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, but he pandered to the Jews and allowed the false accusations to stand (Matthew 27:22-26). According to the Mosaic Law, those who falsely accused the Son of God should have been crucified. Instead, Jesus looked

down at the soldiers and the rulers who were scoffing at Him and dividing up His clothing, and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). This was an indication that the Mosaic Law had been fulfilled by Jesus' sacrifice and that a new law of forgiveness and mercy through faith in the Lamb of God was now in place; for all who would believe in Him. "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

How Jesus handled false accusations

It was found that Jesus primarily responded to false accusation in various ways according to the instruction from his father. For example: by asking questions; through parables, analogies, or maxims; giving strong words of condemnation or affirmation; making reference to the scriptures; sometimes withdrawing from the accusers; or even keeping silent. When he was being falsely accused and mocked, he did not defend himself. In fact, he allowed all this scorn and reproach to happen to him for he was assured of his place in God.

Acts 8:32-33: "He was led as sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth."

Hebrews 12:1-4: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

We are not surprised therefore when Jesus began to deliver His great Sermon on the Mount that He included these words: "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12). We need to take Jesus' example and return good for evil and love for hate, forgiveness for unforgiveness or bitterness. Do not fight back, but allow room for God's intervention.

Chapter Three

CAUSES OF ACCUSATIONS

It is saddening to realize that people who falsely accuse others or say slanderous things are often acting from a place of unhappiness, pride, selfishness, jealousy, hate and more negative emotions, attitudes and biases. In this chapter we unveil some of such dark places so that we ashame the devil's lies by making ourselves aware of his emotional deception in our areas of weakness:

1. Jealousy

"For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" (1 Corinthians 3:3).

Jealousy can be defined as the vigilant maintaining or guarding of something. Jealousy has a bad effect yet it is normal to want to guard the people we love, especially when we see a potential rival closing in. However, there is a difference between feeling jealous and exhibiting unhealthy jealous behaviors.

Normal jealousy is an emotion that comes on in an instant, one which we can usually dismiss on our own. Unhealthy jealous behavior happens when we indulge that feeling and act impulsively from a place of suspicion and insecurity. When insecurity in our relationships run rampant, jealousy can rapidly grow into paranoia and obsession and threaten to destroy the very relationship we are most afraid to lose.

An example of this unhealthy jealousy is portrayed in King Saul over David. After David killed Goliath and the women of the kingdom praised him more than the King, Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. "Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing the harp with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul's hand. Saul hurled the spear for he thought, 'I will pin David to the wall. 'But David escaped from his presence twice" (1 Samuel 18:9-11).

2. Spiritual attacks (Jezebel Spirit)

Spiritual attacks rests accusing spirits like the Jezebel spirit into people. A perfect example of this is how Queen Jezebel accused Naboth and had him killed in 1 Kings 21:1-25:

Now there was a man named Naboth, from Jezreel, who owned a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. One day Ahab said to Naboth, "Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or if you prefer, I will pay you for it." But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors." So, Ahab went home angry and sullen because of Naboth's answer. The king went to bed with his face to the wall and refused to eat! "What's the matter?" his wife Jezebel asked him. "What's made you so upset that you're not eating?" "I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard or trade it, but he refused!" Ahab told her. "Are you the king of Israel or not?" Jezebel demanded. "Get up and eat something, and don't worry about it. I'll get you Naboth's vineyard!" So, she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and other leaders of the town where Naboth

lived. In her letters she commanded: "Call the citizens together for a time of fasting, and give Naboth a place of honor. And then seat two scoundrels across from him who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

So, the elders and other town leaders followed the instructions Jezebel had written in the letters. They called for a fast and put Naboth at a prominent place before the people. Then the two scoundrels came and sat down across from him. And they accused Naboth before all the people, saying, "He cursed God and the king." So, he was dragged outside the town and stoned to death. The town leaders then sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death."

Jezebel was responsible for the killing of Naboth and confiscation of his vineyard for her husband (1 Kings 21:1-6). She also sought the death of all the prophets of Israel (1 Kings 18:4; 2 Kings 9) and even came close to killing Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-3).

3. Malice

Malice is defined as conscious bad will or the desire to do bad things to another person. This usually ends up in intentional wrongdoing. An example of malice is when you hate someone and want to seek revenge.

An example of this is in Joseph's Brothers who were Malicious of him because he was a dreamer. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer! Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!" Joseph's brothers accused him of being a dreamer who sought that his brothers and parents should bow down to him. (Genesis 37:19-20).

4. Envy

This is a feeling of discontent or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck. Whereas some people try to use the word envy in a good way, the bible clearly classifies envy among the fruits of the flesh. Jealousy and envy both involve a feeling of desire for what another person has, but jealousy is usually thought to be more negative.

An example of this is in Cain's life over his brother Abel: Cain began to compare his own efforts to that of his brother's. Why was God blessing Abel and not him? Why did God deem Abel's offerings more acceptable and pleasing than his own?

Cain began to resent God for blessing him in that way, and to despise his brother and all of his success. This eventually led Cain to murder his brother. (Genesis 4:5) As punishment, he was doomed to be a restless wanderer for the remainder of his life.

In Genesis 4:6-7, God says to Cain:

” Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

5. Strife

By “strife,” we mean continued fighting or quarreling characterized by enmity and resulting in a state of division or dissension among a group or members of the church.

An example of this is seen in Jacob and Esau: From an early stage, the two twins wanted what the other had.

Jacob saw his opportunity when Esau came in from hunting one day and was hungry. Jacob took advantage of the situation and his brother's impulsiveness by demanding Esau's rights as first-born son in exchange for a bowl of soup that he was cooking. Esau, not thinking about the situation properly and driven by his stomach, agreed, little realizing that this would come back to haunt him later on. Each boy wanted the blessing of the other parent yet instead both parents unknowingly effectively created strife amongst their sons. Jacob desperately craved his father's blessing and would try to gain it by any means possible. The same was with Esau.

6. Immaturity

Young people always seek to give excuses, denying responsibility for what has gone wrong. It is a characteristic therefore of immature people to point fingers in case of anything. Some are great accusers, making accusations even without proof. As a matter of fact, these are the ones who are mostly bribed to give false testimonies in court. There is something synonymous of immaturity and selfishness. These seek their own safety and well-being at the expense of others. With such an attitude, many young people are used as instruments of accusation.

7. Ignorance

Since Daniel was higher in divine knowledge and understanding than the Commissioners & Satraps, and thus favored of the King, they sought for ground on which to falsely accuse Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God" (Daniel 6:4-9).

8. Fear

When Pharisees and Sadducee's were afraid of Jesus, they sought to kill him. "The chief priests and the scribes began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching (Mark 11:18).

9. Anger

An example of this is in Herman who got angry at Mordecai and thus sought to find a way to accuse him and get all his people (Jews) killed. "When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, he was filled with rage. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; therefore. Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. The accusation behind was that the Jews were disrespectful of the king and his officials' (Esther 3:5-6).

10. Grudges

An example of this is in Herodias who had a grudge against John the Baptist and thus wanted him dead.

Mark 6:18; "For John had said unto Herod, it is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife".

Chapter Four

RESPONDING TO ACCUSATION

An award-winning author and retired faculty emeritus of pastoral studies of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois; John Koessler says; “Response to accusation greatly depends upon the nature of the accusation. Many accusations are vague or insignificant and should be ignored. For example, it is extremely difficult to respond to one who says, ‘You don’t have a pastor’s heart.’ What exactly is a pastor’s heart? How do you know when someone has one? Usually, statements like these are indirect ways of implying; I don’t like your personality.’ Unfortunately, we cannot make others like us and so often simply absorb such criticism. It is a mistake to respond to every accusation that comes your way, even when it is wrong.

However, some accusations cannot be ignored. They have the potential to severely damage reputation and hinder ministry. What makes these accusations so serious is that they do not need to be substantiated in order to ruin someone's career. Unfortunately, accusations spread faster than news of vindication. If we are not ignoring, we are going to respond as guided by the Holy Spirit. Some of these are stated in scripture under various cases.

The first case in point is Nehemiah:

Nehemiah was in the process of rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem, when he found out his enemies were saying all sorts of untrue things about him and his intentions in building the wall. His reply in Nehemiah 6:8 is awesome: " ... There are no such things done as you say but you feign them out of your own

heart." What an appropriate response when someone is lying about you. In the subsequent verses though, the way Nehemiah handled this false accusation is challenging, motivating and inspirational:

1. Respond with prayer for strength.

When accusation tries to frighten you, respond with prayer for strength. In Nehemiah 6:9-10, Nehemiah says: "They (the enemies) were all trying to frighten us, thinking 'Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.' But I prayed, 'Now strengthen my hands.'"

The enemy tried to frighten and discourage them from building the wall, but Nehemiah and the Jews prayed to God to strengthen them. Is someone or something trying to scare or deter you from doing what is right or fulfilling God's calling on your life? Pray to God for strength to stand firm and stay focused on the task in front of you.

2. Respond with action and confidence.

When accusation tries to intimidate you, to give you a bad name, respond with action and confidence. In Nehemiah 6:10-13, we learn that Nehemiah's enemies had hired one of his 'friends' to pretend to protect him from a false death threat. Nehemiah realized his friend had been bought by his enemies to intimidate him; saying false things about him to halt progress of the wall. Scripture does not say that Nehemiah said a word about the false death threat or his friend' betrayal. Instead, he responded with action - he confidently finished building the wall.

Nehemiah did not waste time validating his enemies' attempts at distracting him or by harboring unforgiveness and bitterness. After the wall of Jerusalem was built, it was a testament to all the surrounding nations that the Jews finished this with God's help. It showed that God was truly with them.

By not letting accusation distract us, we are free to complete the task at hand. Do not let someone's false words or hurtful actions derail you from fulfilling God's purposes, plans, and callings on your life.

The other case in point is Job:

3. Respond by listening calmly

It is important to calmly listen to what is being said, considering the character of the critic. You do not have to be tempted to jump in and rashly react in the flesh, making statements you will later regret. Do your best to listen to what is being said. While doing so, keep in mind the character of the person who is the source of the accusation. Calmly take it all in. This will prepare you for further response as Job expressed wisdom to his accusing friends (Job 12:1-3).

4. Respond with truth

Having had a background of the accusation, it is time to respond with true facts and accurate information; knowing the nature of your accuser. Stay on the side of the truth, regardless. The other person may be a former husband or former wife. They could be your previous or current boss, an employee, neighbor, pastor, or friend. It does not matter who the individual is. If you are being accused you need to focus only on true facts. Do not react or think of ways to retaliate. If you yield to either temptation, you will sound like the

accuser. God honors integrity. Maybe not immediately, but ultimately, you will be vindicated. Remember David's prayer: "Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity" (Psalms 26:1). Truth will prevail among people who traffic in it and make their decisions based on it.

Since accusation is information based on hearsay not accurate facts, stick on the path of the truth. Truth is the best vindication against slander. Stay on the truth. Do not exaggerate it, deny it, or hesitate to say it.

5. Respond by leaning on God's word and promises

You can then use examples that represent reality and balance, trusting your defense from the Lord. While speaking the truth, job left the defense of his own character in the Lord's hands. He was firm and deliberate, but he remained in control. I understand what it is like to be unjustly maligned. I have been accused of things, and such rumor has made me unsettled, sometimes taking away my appetite.

I have determined not to pay any attention to it yet unable to turn it off in my mind. Not until I decided to surrender all in the Lord's hands and rest in His sovereign control, did I find inner peace. It is until you deliberately step back and lean hard on God, that the – mind begins to relax, emotions settle down, and inner peace returns. Then truth wins and God is glorified.

6. Respond by toughening your faith in action

Refuse to let the accusations discourage and derail you, remembering they are nonsensical lies. For example; you may be trusting the Lord for safety, but you still lock your doors every night, hopefully, and turn on your alarm. When you

get in your home, you lock your doors, don't you? You close the windows, don't you? If you don't, you are playing with fire. Trusting God is not naïve presumption. Wisdom must be applied to a life of faith. Going through hard times requires a get-tough mind-set.

Nehemiah and his team went on to work hard in the face of accusation and serious persecution but also being security conscious. They were building the walls while also preparing to repel an attack from Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites (Nehemiah 4:7-23). Scripture says they made their prayer to God and then took action. As the men worked, they also carried weapons in case of the enemy's attack (v. 18-20).

Nehemiah 4:13-23

“So, I armed the people with swords, spears, and bows, and stationed them by clans behind the wall, wherever it was still unfinished. I saw that the people were worried, so I said to them and to their leaders and officials, "Do not be afraid of our enemies. Remember how greatly terrifying the Lord is, and fight for your relatives, your children, your wives, and your homes." Our enemies heard that we had found out what they were plotting, and they realized that God had defeated their plans. Then all of us went back to rebuilding the wall.

From then on half of my men worked and half stood guard, wearing coats of armor and armed with spears, shields, and bows. And our leaders gave their full support to the people who were rebuilding the wall. Even those who carried building materials worked with one hand and kept a weapon in the other, and everyone who was building kept a sword strapped to their waist. The man who was to sound the alarm on the bugle stayed with me. I told the people and their officials and leaders, “The work is spread out over such a distance that we are widely separated from one another on the wall. If you hear the bugle, gather around me. Our God will fight for us.’

So, every day, from dawn until the stars came out at night, half of us worked on the wall, while the other half stood guard with spears. During this time, I told the men in charge that they and all their helpers had to stay in Jerusalem at night, so that we could guard the city at night as well as work in the daytime. I didn't take off my clothes even at night, neither did any of my companions nor my servants nor my bodyguards. And we all kept our weapons at hand.

Chapter Five

OVERCOMING ACCUSATION

Knowing our true identity in Christ

A lot of people think Christianity is easy and a struggle-free life, they are ignorant of the fact that when we become Christians, we gain an adversary. We are now at the battle front. Most Christians have come to an understanding that we have an enemy but they misunderstand how that enemy attacks us. We see how he does in Revelation 12:10. The devil's main job in our lives is not temptation; it is accusation. He wants to tempt you to do something and then turn that temptation into accusation. He wants to convince us that our issue is with our identity. If we believe that, then we will think God relates to us depending on how we have fared in times of temptation and adversity. The truth is; God always relates to us as sons. Why? Jesus stepped in as our advocate and paid the price on our behalf. We overcome the enemy's accusations through knowing our true identity in Christ.

The devil knows that something does not have to be true to destroy your life, it just has to be believed. If he can get you to believe wrong, he has you trapped. Romans 8:1 says; "There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus". This is true but if you do not believe it, the devil's accusation over a wrong you have done or his lie over your life will destroy your relationship with God. Then you will spend your entire life feeling unworthy of his grace, his acceptance, his love.

God loves us not based on what we do but on who we are. God adopted us into his family when we accepted his son as our Lord as Savior. Jesus Christ is the first born of God and we follow.

Revelation 12:11 continues to tell us how the brethren overcame or triumphed over the accuser, "... by the blood of the lamb and the word the of their testimony."

Testimony is information given in court as evidence. The Greek word that gets translated, accuser, in Revelation 12, is the same Greek word used for a prosecuting attorney in court. That is what the devil does.

1st John 2:1 says; "My little children, I am writing this to you, so you may not sin. But, if anybody does sin, he has an advocate before the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous one; the propitiation for our sense."

The word advocate has its Greek equal that means defense attorney. It is as if every second of your life, there's a courtroom in heaven in session where; God the Father is the good judge, Satan is a prosecuting attorney, Jesus Christ is there in the courtroom with you as your advocate or lawyer. So, every single time you sin, Satan, the prosecuting attorney stands up and says, "Your Honor, I have a charge to levy against Mark. He sinned again. In fact, I've got it written in your word that what Mark did for the 1,000th time is against your law. Yet your word says that the wages of sin is death. I accuse Mark of this sin. I have proved his guilt by your own word, and I demand that the wages of that sin, death, be levied upon him.'

Then you hear someone at the back of the courtroom crying out, "Objection, your honor. Objection." This is Jesus Christ Himself who runs to the front of the courtroom to stand next to you.

Please note that a defense attorney does not ask a judge for mercy, he pleads a case. In fact, have you noticed this language in 1st John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin." It does not say, "He is faithful and gracious ... "

So, Jesus says, "Your honor, Father, I've got a case to plead. Yes, Mark did just break your law again. That is true. And yes, your word says the wages of sin is death."

Then holding out his bloody and nail-scarred hands, he continues to say, "But I have evidence to present, your honor. I went to the cross for that sin, I was punished for that sin, I already paid the penalty for that sin, and it would be unjust for you to punish the same sin twice. And so, your honor, I do not ask for mercy, I demand justice for my death; that you forgive Mark again."

Every second of your life, you get acquittal after acquittal because Jesus Christ (the righteous one) has an 'airtight case'; he was crucified for the sins of the world. This is great, however, the 11th verse of chapter twelve of Revelation continues on to say that they overcame Satan by the blood of the lamb "and the word of their testimony." What does this mean:

A biography is your story with you at the center. A testimony is your story with Jesus at the center. In your biography, what you did is who you are (your issue does become your identity). In your testimony, it is your story with Jesus at the center (you are not what everybody says about you but what Jesus says). You are not your addiction or your past. It does not matter how bad you were deep in transgression. Jesus dying on the cross for you is the biggest thing that ever happened in your life. It is what defines you.

This is your identity in Christ Jesus

(This is who you are)

If you accepted Jesus Christ (if not, there is a prayer leading to salvation at the end of this book), this is who you are in Christ Jesus.

You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world, you are a child of God, you are Jesus Christ's friend. You are a temple of the living God. You are a new creation. You have been reconciled to God, and you are a minister of reconciliation.

You are Holy and dearly loved. You are a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You are an enemy of the devil. You are born of God, and the devil cannot triumph over you. You are justified, forgiven, and made righteous.

You are free from condemnation. You have received the Spirit of God into your life, that you might know the things freely given to you by God. You are valuable, should be treated as valuable. You are sealed by God in Christ, given the Holy Spirit as a pledge, guaranteeing your inheritance in Christ. You have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer you who lives but Christ who lives in you. You are blessed with every spiritual blessing. You have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.

You have been rescued from the domain of Satan's rule, and have been transferred to the kingdom of Christ. You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You have been given a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. You have the right to come boldly before the throne of God and find mercy and grace in time of need. You have been given exceedingly great and precious promises, by which you are a partaker in God's divine nature, and you are loved by God.

Chapter six

FINDING HEALING FROM CHURCH ACCUSATIONS

The devil can use untrue ‘things’ spoken against us as a tool to cripple us with insecurity, fear, doubt, stress, anxiety, bitterness, unforgiveness, offense, and self-accusation. Do not let him have this kind of power over you. The person spewing slander is not your enemy; Satan is. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Many Christians who have gone through hurt by accusations from in and out of church think they have to settle for a 'second-hand' life because they have been abused in whatever way (physically, spiritually, psychologically). They think their future would never be as good as it could have been.

Unfortunately, this is what our enemy, Satan, wants us to believe. He wants us to stop right where we are, believing that our past pain has permanently damaged what God can do with our future.

It is important to know therefore that everyone is dealing with emotional pain to some degree. Whether it is a difficult relationship, an addiction, abuse or even depression, past hurts can cripple us and prevent us from moving forward. But regardless of what's happened in our past, God still wants us to have a great future.

If you are brokenhearted; hurt, abused, disappointed or unfairly treated in any way; it does not limit what God can do in your life. In fact, God is the only One Who can give you a sure future.

Isaiah 61:7-8 says "Instead of your shame there will be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore, in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy. For I the Lord love justice ... " (ESV).

1. Forgive by God's Grace

The greatest you can do on your journey of healing is to choose to forgive, even in the midst of raw emotional pain. Although, this does not come naturally by human standards but by God's grace.

The first step to being able to forgive is knowing that your feelings are totally valid. If your church hurt you through legalism, hypocrisy, betraying your trust, or any other reason; this was never God's plan. His heart breaks with yours that his Body would cause you any harm.

However, you do not have to hold onto this pain. It is a supernatural thing to be able to let your pain go. And thankfully, God wants and expects us to rely on Him for help.

"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have any thing against anyone, so that your father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25)

Note in this verse Jesus encourages forgiveness within the context of prayer. If there was ever a way for us to be open to receive God's strength to forgive when our flesh doesn't want to, it's when we are in communion with God

through prayer. And we can be assured that He will answer and deliver us when we pray and believe (vs. 24).

If you are struggling with forgiveness, pray for God to help you forgive. When we express the desire to do what He asks us to do, He will give us the ability to work it out. Choosing to forgive is an opportunity to be like Christ and positively influence those around you.

2. Guard against Bitterness

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and trouble, and by it many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:15).

It has been said that; unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die, and that bitterness is a poison which can physically kill you. Not only can bitterness escalate conflict and add to your emotional pain, medical studies have shown that unresolved anger can cause serious health issues like weakening the immune system, damaging lung capacity, and coronary heart disease.

Choosing to meditate on the anger you feel, gossiping to other church members about what happened, or wishing ill towards those who hurt; is evidence of bitterness.

On the other side; talking to a professional counselor about your experience, refusing to partake in slander against those who hurt you, and prayer for God’s help in handling bitterness will move you forward into your healing.

It is all about perspective. Not being bitter does not mean what happened to you was okay. Yet bitterness, like any root, grows. You can stop it from

growing by focusing on God's goodness, provision, and safety, rather than those who harmed you. Keep this scripture in mind to guard your thoughts. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable [excellent or praiseworthy] think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

3. Seek Compassion

"Bless those who persecute you [who cause you harm or hardship]; bless and do not curse them" (Romans 12:14)

Continuing in Love like Christ did is extending compassion to those who hurt you. This starts with praying for them, which helps you step down from your defenses to look at the situation in a different perspective. Job prayed for his accusing friends too. Thus, God restored him!

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10).

If you have been hurt by a church leader, seek compassion too. Church leaders are not perfect too. They are humans and subject to sin like we all are. They also deserve compassion.

Many times, we as leaders find ourselves caught up in disturbing personal or family issues while serving in ministry leadership positions. During such seasons we struggle to balance these competing demands. So, we could unintentionally hurt people. We also need to be treated with grace concerning our mishaps.

Looking past the surface; acknowledging the potential struggle or pain behind the actions of others; can help you extend compassion to those who hurt you.

Think of times where you did not mean to hurt others but you were in ‘survival mode’ and could not meet their needs. Sometimes you were just having a rough day and accidentally shout at someone. This does not excuse your hurt nor means that they do not need to repent of their hurtful patterns towards you. But it does put it context and allow you to see the people who hurt you as human – just like you.

4. Look Within

“Search me, God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalms 139:23-24)

When dealing with an accusation or an emotionally charged situation, it is human to assume that we are 100% in the right and the other party is 100% wrong. Yet this usually is not the case. The majority of the time we have a part to play in the conflicts we are in, even if it is a small percentage. Regardless, we can still grow and learn from the situation if we choose to; and doing so will help facilitate healing.

When you choose to step back from your anger to think and pray about the situation, it allows you to evaluate your actions and re-actions. If you are open, God can illuminate any actions that didn’t honor Him or even escalated the conflict. This is not to say you deserved to be mistreated or hurt, but rather that God can use that difficult circumstance to help you grow into his likeness.

Honestly evaluating your role in a situation enables you to also explore painful emotional events in your past that may have never fully healed. If your current emotional pain seems overwhelming and impossible to get through, it may be coming from a place of rejection or abuse from your past still affecting you.

God not only wants to heal the emotional pain you are struggling with now; He wants to heal the pain and heartaches from your past hidden deep within your soul.

5. Seek Peace

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18)

Accusation always results into strained relationships; adding to emotional pain. Seeking peace with the person who hurt you could be another step on your healing journey. If you can, meeting with the person to calmly talk about the situation can be very helpful.

While it is possible that the person may not want to meet with you or may become defensive in the conversation, that does not mean you need to match their demeanor. It takes both parties to find resolution and reconciliation. Unfortunately, that does not always happen. Do your part to make reconciliation and leave the rest in God’s hands.

If it is not possible to seek reconciliation because the person is no longer around or if it’s not safe or wise for you to be around them, you can still seek peace with yourself and with God in the situation.

Forgiveness is an imperative, but reconciliation is not, because you can only do what you can do. You can resolve to heal and not hold on to the hurt – by giving it to God to do His healing work in your heart. Just do not give up hope! God will keep working in the other person’s heart. Even if it is years after, that reconciliation can happen. Keep praying for the parties who caused you pain, and keep the door open to God doing.

6. Renewing of the mind by the word of God

It will greatly help your spiritual stability if you study the word. For example, learn from all biblical servants of God who faced accusations and how they dealt with it. This study will give you mental prowess to go through seasons of attack without fainting.

7. Don't Give Up on Church

Some of my most difficult struggles have come from being hurt by people or situations that occurred within church, yet, despite this, I am extremely passionate about the local church and the church community.

Throughout my involvement in church ministry, for way over twenty years, I have seen and experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly. Yet overwhelmingly I have seen the good far outweigh the bad; through the immense blessing of being a part of a local body of believers.

My heart breaks when I see people give up on church and miss out on the growth and life-changing healthy relationships they could experience by being a part of a healthy church.

If you are not currently attending or part of a church, I encourage you to pray about your future church involvement and ask God how and where He wants to direct you. If you are still part of the church that hurt you and you sense that He is leading you to stay planted there, He will give you peace about it and the ability to work through the things you experienced. If you do not have peace about returning to your former church because it feels unsafe, or if you are not currently part of any church, God will be faithful to lead you to a

healthy church and help you continue on your healing journey there. The most important thing is seeking Him and remain open to how and where He wants to guide you and He will be faithful to continue to work out the healing in your heart. My wife Margaret and I testify before the Lord for over Twenty-Five years in Marriage as a result of having learnt and practiced this divine secret of handling accusations and allowing ourselves to heal from them. In case any arise; we take them to God in prayer, say sorry to each other, and make any possible adjustments; thus, removing ground for any future accusation. I give you the key to our success in marriage. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ... " (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Chapter seven

HOW CHURCH LEADERS DEAL WITH ACCUSATION

1. Examine Yourself

No matter what people say negatively and how hurting it is, I have found out that the key in overcoming this is in gaining God's perspective on who I am. Even on my best days I am fallible. So, I prayerfully ask myself these questions:

- a) Are the accusations or lies true in any way? Have I directly or inadvertently reflected that motive or intent?
- b) Where is the criticism coming from? There are people who are regular and reasonable in my life and those that are not. I choose to hear the opinion of the reasonable above the others.
- c) What does my mentor or accountability partner say about the accusations and lies? If you do not have such a person to be accountable to, you miss a balanced and objective perspective on your practices, habits, and attacks on your life.

2. Do not Return Evil for Evil

What should you do with the urge to defend yourself when others make accusations and spread lies? A righteous indignation arises to defend the Lord's cause. At the same time, the ego flinches from the attacks. Separating our ego from true zeal makes it a tough job.

In his first letter, Peter gives us direction.

The Lord Jesus' reaction sets the standard in Isaiah 53:7; "He opened not his mouth" to the unjust accusations of the time. No reviling, no threats. "He kept entrusting himself to him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:20-2). We have been called exactly for this purpose, to suffer as Christ suffered. What an example to follow? Do not return evil for evil, but in place of an eye for an eye, give a blessing instead! Inheriting the blessing depends on it.

Rejoice in suffering and keep working (1 Peter 4:10-14). Do not let a few people keep you from serving the Lord and blessing the lives of many. See the opportunities, not the difficulties.

The big issue is this: What result do I want to see from people accusing me and lying about me? Do I want to see myself cleared? Or am I more concerned to see the truth of the gospel prevail in those who speak evil? Peter encouraged the persecuted to work toward conversion, not confrontation: "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).

What can Peter mean by an evildoer glorifying God on the last day except by his conversion? What a wonderful result from our Spirit-controlled speech and actions, to bring the opponent to the Lord's kingdom!

3. Go to the Offended Person

The bible tells us if our brother offends us, go to him and work it out. Second, forgive him and let him know that you love him or her in spite of the situation. Third, don't let a negative outcome hinder you from moving on with your life and ministry.

4. Let God Vindicate and do Vengeance

"To me belongs vengeance and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time. For the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste (Deuteronomy 32:35).

Call on God to take care of vengeance and vindicate you. God can do a much better job than we ever could.

5. Have Faith

“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands” (Deuteronomy. 8:2).

We receive many different tests throughout our lives. Satan knows our weakest points. Fear is Satan’s primary weapon. He moves in response to fear. He challenges the promises of God with the venom of fear.

An excellent example is found in Matthew 14 when Jesus invited Peter to come to him on the water. “But when [Peter] saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, ‘Lord, save me’” (verse 30). What enabled Peter to walk on the water? His faith in the Word of Jesus. What caused Peter to sink? He was afraid. It wasn’t the wind that defeated him; it was his fear.

Faith is developed by meditating on God’s Word. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. Use it to fight Satan every time he comes against you. Hold up your shield of faith and quench all fiery darts of the enemy.

6. Beware of the sin of 'Murder in the Heart'

In Matthew 5:21-26; Jesus is showing the Jews how they have misunderstood the meaning of the Sixth Commandment. They taught that nothing except the sin of actual murder was forbidden by the Sixth Commandment. Christ shows us that all rash anger is 'Murder in the Heart'.

Malicious slanders and censures are poison that kill secretly and slowly. Christ told us that how light so ever they made of these sins, they would be called into judgment for them. We ought to preserve love and live at peace with all men.

Even if we are not at fault, we should make peace. Go directly to the one or ones who have done this to you and ask forgiveness. Yes, ask for forgiveness! You will not believe what God will do with all of this until you do it. God wants to heal you. He loves you so much and wants you to move past all of the pain rising from accusations. He does not want this pain to always come between you and the other party.

7. Don't Worry about Undeserved Curses

Proverbs 26:2 reads, "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest." The 'undeserved curse' does not come to rest because of the 'Sow and Reap' principle. Sowing lies and rumors will make you reap a reputation of the same. Sow goodness, and all those 'undeserved curses and sentiments from accusations' will not land on you.

8. God Is the Judge, Not You

"But God is the judge: he putteth down one and setteth up another" (Psalms 75:7).

If by God's help you find the source of the rumor, then and only then can issues be addressed. After talking to the responsible person(s), the responsibility for correction of words or issues lies upon the original source. Most importantly, God is the judge, not us.

9. Defend Your Ministry

(2 Corinthians chapters 10 to 11)

Consider taking the apostle Paul's approach with the Corinthians. In his second epistle, he defended himself by being honest about his credentials as an apostle, a leader, and a man who truly loved serving God. He stressed his unconditional love for the Corinthian congregation because he wanted to make sure they were aware that he had their best interest at heart.

Paul was not trying to boast or brag about his ministry. He did not have to, because his ministry and calling spoke for itself. However, in his absence, he realized the importance of reminding the Corinthian church of the authority of his apostleship. The apostle Paul knew how imperative it was to quickly defeat Satan.

10. Realize Your Real Battle

All lies and false accusations stem from the Devil, who is the father of lies, as taught by Jesus in John 8:44. Our battle, then, is against "the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual

forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). 2 Timothy 2:26 talks about people who are opposing the Lord's servant. He is to gently instruct them in the hope that God will grant them repentance: "and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the Devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." These people are prisoners of war, doing the bidding of the father of lies. Do not play the Devil's game, do the opposite (Micah 4:11-12).

11. Persecution Shows we are Following Jesus

Jesus told us ahead of time that we would be persecuted in his name (John 15:20). If we are facing persecution, then we must be working well in God's kingdom! The Message of this book resonates with its key scripture in Revelation 12:11; "And they overcame him on account of the blood of the lamb, on the account of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." This scripture has three sections of which we overcome the devil:

a) On the account of the blood of the lamb

All believers are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, from the Kingdom of darkness into Christ's kingdom (Colossians 1:13). This gives us a right standing before God, vindicated and justified. We are now righteous by our faith in God, so the devil has nothing to accuse us of. We only remain victorious over the enemy's accusations if we believe and confess Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives.

b) On the account of the word of their testimony

Therefore, we are no longer guilty of the accusations by the accuser but free under our advocate Jesus Christ. Our testimony (confessions of our mouth) should also aim to keep us on the side of victory in Christ Jesus. Whatever we confess must be in line with the promises of God for our life not against us – to give the devil what he can use as evidence against us. We will only remain victorious over the enemy's accusations if we make declarations of faith unto our victory and freedom in the name of Jesus.

c) They did not love their life even faced with death.

With the blood of Christ atoning for our sins and the word of our testimony, we are now resolute to die for the gospel of Christ. Our convictions are in line with the purposes of God for our life, so we can give up our lives for the fulfilment of these purposes. Like Paul, "... away from the body is to be at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). We have gained confidence to confess like Queen Esther, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:6). We now see death as the believer's ultimate victory.

Confession & Prayer unto Salvation

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for opening my eyes now, to see you in your full glory.

I am deeply sorry that I kept you out of my life this long.

I am sorry that I kept causing myself so much pain for this long.

I am so sorry for the wasted years of my life.

I confess all my sins (you name them).

I confess that you are Lord,

I confess you, Jesus, as my Savior, I confess you, Jesus, as my Friend.

Please forgive me, wash me in your blood.

Write my name in the book of life.

Help me henceforth to live a life that pleases you in Jesus' name. Amen.

OTHER REFERENCE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 50:33-34: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together, and all that took them captives held them fast. They refused to let them go. Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Hosts is His name. He shall thoroughly plead their case, that he may give rest, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon”.

Isaiah 54: 14-15,17: “In righteousness shalt thou be established. Thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear; and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me. Whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 17 No weapon formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn ... “

Romans 8:31,33: “... If God be for us, who shall be against us? 33Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s people? It is God that justifies”.



Until we mature to a level of dealing with accusation without losing the focus of reaching the gospel of Christ to people, church will remain challenged in the areas of project growth, community development, spiritual depth and membership growth among the few. This book is such an important tool that the church needs, to be able to ride above accusations from in and outside church.

Pastor Mark Kiyaga is the senior Pastor & Overseer of Redeemed Life Ministries headquartered in Bunamwaya, Kampala (Uganda) with eleven branch churches nationwide.

He is married to Margaret with a blessing of four blood children; Jeremiah, Christiana, Jesse, Mercy and many spiritual sons and daughters they have nurtured.

Pr. Mark had an encounter with Christ at the age of 10 (June 1983) while at School in Primary five. He graduated from Makerere University, Kampala in 1997 which year he was ordained in Ministry though he had earlier in 1993 started pastoral ministry.

Pastor Mark has a passion for souls and preaches extensively nationally and internationally. He is an anointed worshiper, teacher of the word of God, a conference speaker and anointed crusade preacher flowing in the healing and deliverance anointing; winning souls for Christ and fanning revival.

ISBN: 978-9970-519-47-4