

CHRIST IS AN EXPERIENCE

07-0600

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THE BRIDE'S VOICE

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Choir Ministration

HYMN NUMBER: 190; "Watching You".

All along the road to the soul's true abode,
There's an eye watching you;
Every step that you take, this great Eye is awake,
There's an Eye watching you.

Chorus:

*Watching you, watching you,
Everyday mind the course you pursue;
Watching you, watching you,
There's an all-seeing Eye watching you.*

As you make life's great flight, keep the pathway of
right,
There's an Eye watching you.
God will warn not to go in the path of the foe,
There's an Eye watching you.

Fix your mind on the goal, that sweet home of the
soul,
There's an Eye watching you.
Never, turn from the way to the kingdom of day,
There's an Eye watching you.

**HYMN NUMBER: 131; “What Would You Give
in Exchange.”**

Brother afar from the Saviour today,
Risking your soul for the things that decay,
Oh, if today, God should call it away,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?

Chorus:

*What would you give? What would you give?
What would you give in exchange for your soul?
Oh, if today, God should call it away,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?*

Mercy is calling you, won't you give heed?
Must the dear Saviour still tenderly plead?
Risk not your soul, it is precious indeed;
What would you give in exchange for your soul?

More than the silver and gold of the earth,
More than all jewels thy spirit is worth!
God, the Creator has given it birth!
What would you give in exchange for your soul?

If, when you stand at the bar by and by,
When you are weighed in the balance on high,
You should be sentenced forever to die,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?

“What will you give in exchange of your life? Oh my brother, oh my sister! Are you a sinner are you a fornicator, are you a liar? Why don't you desist from all this. He said, “Come unto me and he will receive you. Jesus is calling you today, He's coming very soon. Are you a Musician, a Pastor or Evangelist, among the five-fold ministry? What are you doing with those gifts? What are you going to give in exchange? Remember it is appointed unto man once to die and after death is judgement. What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and at the end of the day, you end up in hell? Oh my brother, oh my sister, what will you give in exchange?”

Chorus:

*What would you give? What would you give?
What would you give in exchange for your soul?
Oh, if today, God should call it away,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?*

What would you give? What would you give?
What would you give in exchange for your soul?
Oh, if today, God should call it away,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?

What would you give? What would you give?
What would you give in exchange for your soul?
Oh, if today, God should call it away,
What would you give in exchange for your soul?
Amen! Hallelujah!

¹ Matthew 11:28 because this question is leading me, Praise the Lord. It's this question o. I just saw this question this morning as I came in. Because the brother sent me a text – saw me on Friday to remind me if I saw it because he dropped it there on Tuesday and I told him I hadn't seen it until this morning before the coordinator checked the suggestion box and brought it out. And that leads me, what he asked is leading me to say one or two things before we close. That's why I say it will be few minutes.

² Your estate in your Christianity. The determinant, the determining factor that determines the type of faith you will have is determined by the kind of the experience you've had with Christ. The truth is many of us coming to Christ, we are just religious people. It's just religion.

³ Why do I say religion? So many of you are Christians today for instance because you were born in a Christian family. Your father and mother was going to church, that is why till today you are a Christian. That means if your father and mother were Muslims, today you will be a Muslim. If your father and mother were going to Olumba-Olumba, today you would have been going to Ambo Street, Calabar. It's true! You see? And if your father and mother were Babalawo – worshipping water spirit, you would have been a chief priest there by now.

So, now you're a Christian. The only reason you are a Christian is because, my papa and mama are Muslims and Christians.

⁴ And of course, I'm also aware even in going to church, the choice of church you go to is also determined by several factors. It is either a personal revelation you have or you are constrained to go because of prevailing circumstance. It's true! I'm living with you now, so you're going to Catholic Church or OK let me even use Bride Assembly, you are going to Bride Assembly, if I don't follow you to Bride Assembly, you may drive me from your house and I don't have any alternative place to go, so when it's Sunday, I'll follow you to Bride Assembly. Now you will tell that one now, *say he's your member*. When he is coming now you will say he's your member. You see. Or your father and mother are coming to Bride Assembly, *"If I no follow him, he will not pay my school fees. Make I follow this old man. All this their own e dey do, make I just finish my school I go know where I dey"*.

⁵ So, but now, generally now, you are a Christian simply because you are religious, you must belong to one religion or the other. When you are filling form, "which one will I fill now, Religion? Ehn, I'm Christian, Christian". So anywhere you go, you are a Christian. You have Bible.

⁶ Church if that is all, that you hold onto for your Christianity you are more than a miserable human being on earth. That type of faith will never stand the storm of life. Will never stand any storm, never! And that is why some of us behave and look so miserably because there is no anchor. The only thing that give you anchor – remember we are worshipping a God we cannot see and yet you have to believe Him.

⁷ So, for you to believe him there must be something – an experience -you have received that makes you to be sure, this thing about Christianity is not story. It's real! That makes you ready to die for what you stand for. That makes you ready to go hungry for what you stand for. That makes you ready to take any reproach, any insult under any situation for what you stand for. That makes you say, it is for better, it is for worse. There must be something. That thing is what Christ said in Matthew 11:28, a popular verse, we always read it. It says, verse 28, it says, Come! Hallelujah:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

⁸ Come, when you say, give your life to Christ you come. Come and I will give you rest. There are two things involved. There is the “coming” and there is

the “giving”. And this coming is not the journey of the leg.

⁹ You jump up and say, I am going to Christ. It’s not with leg! Where is it with? It’s from the heart. It’s a journey that’s from the heart. And when you make that decision from your heart to come to the Lord Jesus Christ, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! You are coming for an experience. Therefore, you come with an expectation. You are coming with expectation. And please the experience I’m talking about is not, “when I come then I will prosper” that is not the experience.

¹⁰ That I get a business breakthrough today. I pray, pray, pray, pray. I go to, eh, eh – I went to Guru Maharaj nothing happen. I went to Cele, nothing happen, I went to this one, nothing happen then when I came to Bride, one prayer *gba* and I prospered. Now, that type of experience that you had will only make you change church. Do you understand what I’m saying? That type of experience will only make you change church. That type of experience can never make you take a stand until you are ready to die for that Jesus that prospered you.

¹¹ No, because shortly after that, devil can still attack you, you can come back to square one again. And

you will pray, pray, pray, nothing will happen. Then you will leave again. How you will leave is you will hear testimony that somewhere now for Ikotun, if the man just do hand like this, you will prosper. You go there the man do hand like this you prosper, you will leave Bride now. See where the thing *dey* happen now “*ebaano*”, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.

¹² Judas was following Jesus Christ but he was following Him with the leg not the heart, he was. Seventy disciples were following Him they were not following Him with the heart; they were following Him with the leg. They were jumping from crusade to crusade pursuing Jesus Christ why? Because every crusade they go, there will be abracadabra there He will turn food they will that day, they will eat tire, they will eat. Free food, free, free! Have you not seen some churches that they entice people with cooking food for the members to eat after service? Yes now. So which type of people will be going there? The day that food stops they will change church. Oh blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

¹³ As long as anytime they have problem, the pastor will take care of them. As long as they have problem the whole members will run gather money and give them, they say, “oh that’s a wonderful church, that church there is love, there’s love, there’s love.

They're my brethren, they're my brethren, they're my brethren", the day they refuse to help him, the testimony will change. He will change his church, change her church. So that's not the kind of experience I'm talking about.

¹⁴ First is an invitation, to whom? Hallelujah! Two groups of people; Number 1: Those who labour and heavy laden. Labouring in what sense? It's not labourer for, for construction site o! It's not labourer for gardener anywhere o. People are labouring under the bondage of the enemy - facing frustrations of life. Nothing is working for you. No peace in your life. Heavy laden, laden with what? Laden with your sin nature; Sin nature. And it's the sin that has kept you labouring for the taskmaster – the devil. It's sin.

¹⁵ If there was no sin in the Garden of Eden, will Adam be running away from snake? Will Adam be running away from monkey? There are some monkeys the way you see them they look like human beings, when you see them you will run. Man will see lion and run away. This group of people, Hallelujah, are in John 7 if you read it from verse 37, read it to verse 39.

¹⁶ It talked about those who are thirsty, he said, "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink" thirsty of what? Thirsty of some reality of life! Every true child of God, every true child of God,

Hallelujah, there is a void inside of you that needs to be satisfied. Every true child of God, Brother Branham calls it, “a representation”.

¹⁷ There is something that God has purposely placed inside of all his foreordained children – children of the true God. It’s the knowledge of the reality of this God that I cannot see. I can’t see him but I know He lives. And you want to live a life pleasing before Him, you want to know Him. That thirst is there. That is what makes so many of us move from church to church, from place to place. I’ve heard some of you who have come to me sharing your testimony when I asked you, I hear, I went here from here, I went here. I say, “Why were you leaving from church to church?” You say, “There is something I was looking for, I could not be satisfied” that is the thirst, that is the thirst.

¹⁸ And then God will lead you to a place of worship where that thing you are looking for, you will see it there, then rest will come upon you. He said, Come to me, Hallelujah, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. That rest is the experience I am talking about. There is something that Christ will do to you that will remove you from that labour and give you rest. Remove all - the heavy load - on you and give you a rest. That rest, there, is rest of mind: Rest from struggling to serve God. It’s

an experience. Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah.

¹⁹ The psalmist in Psalm 34:8, He said, “*O taste and see that the Lord [is] good*”: - Taste and see, taste there is not T-E-S-T o! To taste something! To taste! Amen. Not test – to try something. NO, Taste is using your feeling to know whether something is sweet or bitter, you have to taste it. You taste it with your mouth, you taste it and then you can say, “Oh this thing is sweet, oh this thing is bitter”. And the Psalmist, for him to do that, he has had an experience that’s why he said, Taste and see that the Lord is good because, hallelujah, hallelujah, you want to know about the sun, Amen. You want to know about the sun? Amen. You know about the sun more by feeling it than reading about it. There are some things that we know about it only from what we have read in books.

²⁰ All you know about God is only what you have read in the Bible. NO, what you read, Amen, the kind of experience you have is different from when you now meet God now in a different way. Knowing God from reading is different from Knowing God from a personal experience. Something that anchors you, blessed be the name of the Lord. It’s true now. Ehn? We have armed robbers that visit people at home. You have armed robbers that snatch cars or what do you call them? 419 – *em? One chance* ehn?

You will hear people say, “ah when I enter motor, God saved me, ah one chance, they collected all this one”, when you are just hearing it fear will catch you quite alright. You will be praying, “*ahhhh* what this man is saying, make I no experience am o” ehn? But the type of fear you have is certainly different from the type of fear the person that has gone through it will have.

²¹ And that is why, Blessed be the name of the Lord, that is why if you, two of you, one has had the experience before, of entering a bus that he jam one chance, you never have that experience if you stand at the bus stop, amen, any bus that stops, *Ojuelegba, Ojuelegba* – you will just jump enter inside – *Ojuelegba Twenty naira*. “*Ah, from here to Ojuelegba na hundred naira now? And these people, twenty naira, say ah! This is cheap Oh Jehovah Jireh*” you will enter inside. But that man that has had the experience, “*Ojuelegba twenty naira*”, he go say, “*Idiot they don come*” even if it is not so. Every bus he enters, knowing how he has experienced it, if he opens the bus to enter, *he go look. He go look. Even as he sidon for the next twenty minutes. Him dey do like this. Na them be this abi na wetin?* That person is more careful because of his experience than that person who only heard of it.

²² And so, it is with Christianity, some people fear God, some people don't fear God. Because you have not had any experience that revealed who this God really is. So you can act anyhow, you can act anyhow. But another person, *lai-lai! Ehh! Lai-lai! Lai-lai!* Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.

²³ A young man twenty something years old. Twenty-one years old then, he was telling me that when the Holy Ghost was revealing to him the spirit of fornication he said, he said he was just sitting down and he started smelling excreta. You know, everywhere and he was wondering what is happening. He said God opened his eyes and he said he saw somebody coming with excrement everywhere all-over and he was passing and flies and everything was passing. So, he was shouting, Chai, what is this? And a voice said to him, "that is the spirit of fornication going" He said that is the spirit that follows everyone that is a fornicator. It's an unclean Spirit. So, from that day – it took time before this young man – he's married now – could get a woman; every woman that comes near him, "eh! don't let this spirit follow me." Amen. But he has been reading about fornicators will never inherit the kingdom of God. It didn't have the same impact.

²⁴ And some of you here, all you have known is, "fornicator will go to hell, fornicator will go to hell" then you know that is your weakness then you say,

“ehn the Bible says, He is faithful and just, if we confess – if I confess he will forgive me. God it’s my besetting sin, forgive me. Forgive me. God have mercy, you are a merciful God. God will not let me go to hell.” *Then you go dey continue to dey do am, dey continue to dey do am.* It’s because you have not yet known the effect of what you are doing. Praise God. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! That is it with Christian faith. Amen.

²⁵ In Acts chapter 19, the first 5 verses there, you know the story, I’ve preached on it the other day. Hallelujah. When Apostle Paul saw people who were behaving like Christians; who are supposed to be Christians but their actions were showing like people who had not yet received the Holy Ghost. And he first asked them, “Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?” Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? Because if you have received the Holy Ghost, it will reflect in your lifestyle; It will reflect ... in your lifestyle. You say you have received the Holy Ghost and see the way - We know when the Holy Ghost comes, what He will do. We know what that experience will produce. That’s the truth. Blessed be the name of the Lord. It’s true now.

²⁶ This experience that you receive when you receive Christ. That experience, blessed be the name of the Lord. If it is truly you come to Christ. If it is

Christ that you have come to and He's the one that drew you to Him, Church, there will be an experience you will receive that will either make you faithful or you will continue to remain doubting. That is the determinant. Somebody says he is going to church and he has no *kpingili* faith, *kpingili* faith, faith, faith! Do you know there are some people that when they fall sick, before they remember to pray they've all gone to doctor gone to everywhere?

²⁷ They will first pick their phone and call their doctor, "doctor, doctor this thing don start again o" then when the doctor say, "Ah, I have tried my best o, e be like say, this thing is spiritual" they will say, "ehhhh!" then he will remember to pray. *Kpingili* faith you don't have - at the slightest shaking you fall. You see? This experience you have with Christ will determine whether you will be a humble and obedient Christian or a haughty and disobedient Christian. And when I say, because anytime, anytime you meet genuinely with Christ, the first thing He does in a man is it humbles you. Every experience you have with God, it humbles you. Ah! It will humble you. Oh definitely, definitely. Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord!

²⁸ Yes now! We have the popular story of Jacob in Genesis 32. In Genesis 32, Jacob Amen, was known for his smartness. We all know now even the name

means 419, supplanter. We know. The name was given to him prophetically to know who he was. Sharp! Even from the womb of their mama he was ready to cheat the other one but that his craftiness landed him in several problems, several troubles. Until he became a fugitive in his own home because the brother he cheated, is now after his life – Esau.

²⁹ He managed to escape and some people's sin – remember as you would that men should do to you, do so to others too. He went to Laban (His uncle's house) to hide there, he was serving the man, you know how the man treated him, the man too did him 419. Instead of serving him 7 years, he made him serve him how many years? 14 years. He was paying for his sin. Church! Every evil thing you do, you will pay for it. He was fed up with life, he needed solution to it. He was coming back now to face reality. His enemy is waiting for him.

³⁰ Esau knew he was coming, he prepared his men to revenge because what he did was an unpardonable sin to Esau. You know he collected his birth right from him. You know what that means. Esau will not leave him until he takes his life. So, he was a fugitive. But one thing is, one day he was sleeping and he had an opportunity to meet with God. That opportunity for somebody is coming from tomorrow (Congregation shouts: Amen!) I say that opportunity

is coming tomorrow (Congregation shouts: Amen!). Because I am saying somebody's life history here; you have no peace, no resting place. It's because of the things you have done that are now following you. No peace in your life. But you've decided to come to the Lord.

³¹ Jacob saw God – The Bible said that he wrestled with Him. Don't think that they were playing, they were not playing. *I will never let you go unless You bless me, I will never let you go* - that was his song all night. He wants to go, he grabs Him; He wants to go, he grabs Him. He was desperate and this is the only opportunity Jacob feels he has. Somebody here you think that your nature cannot change. God is going to use this program and surprise your enemies in the name of Jesus. (Congregation shouts: Amen!) Because God will touch you; He's going to touch you Church, He's going to touch you. Amen.

³² For as many have desired for their life to change and be a human being that God has made you. We have lived like animals all these years. Far from God and only religious, now you want to be a child of God. There's a difference between a religious man and a son, a child of God. That person does not depend on going to church to be spiritual. Twenty-four hours he's connected to heaven. Why? Because, Hallelujah, because the God of creation is living in him.

³³ Jacob before you know what is happening, amen. There is a way you will trouble God until you will force Him to change your life. He must bless you. But I want you to watch; there were two monumental things that happened to Jacob in that experience that he had:

Number 1: The first thing was He asked Jacob, “what is your name?” Jacob began to confess, this is who I am. By saying, “My name is Jacob” he’s saying, “as you are seeing me so, I be wo-wo, I be 419, I be cheat. In fact, I cheated my senior brother. In fact even for Laban, there is something I did, that *make me be wetin I be now*. That is the meaning of Jacob. The first thing He did was that He changed his identity from Jacob to what? Say it now, to what? ISRAEL! What is the meaning of Israel? Prince with God! Amen! From 419 to Prince with God because God was going to establish a covenant with him, then you understand, “*If a man be in Christ, he is a new creature*” Amen.

³⁴ Somebody here, your identity will also change in the name of Jesus. Somebody here, all they know you about is fight-fight, fight-fight, fight-fight. Anywhere you go – Fight! Anywhere – Fight! Praise God. Praise the Lord. Wherever *na* fight, fight, fight, fight. Stubbornness, that’s what they know you for. Some of you, anywhere you visit something must miss. Anytime if they pass, anywhere they pass

through something must disappear; stealing spirit. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord. What's your identity now – Jacob? That's why throughout, every day you come here let the Lord know your need; how helpless you are without Him. How much you need Him. You need Him, I need you. I can't serve you on my own. There's something inside of me that wants to worship God. But there's something again that continues to depress me, Apostle Paul calls it, "Besetting Sin". Apostle Paul in Romans 7 calls it the law of sin working in your members; things contrary, contrary.

³⁵ You try o, deep inside of you, you want to live a holy life, but you just can't. You will try for like ... one month, you won't go near that beer parlour, but after that one month. *Your body go dey tell you, "just small, just little for your awful stomach infirmity. Little, just little, just little now"* and when you take finish you say, "*ehhhh, I know I know I don fall again*" that is evidence you need Him.

³⁶ This week, this song will be relevant, "Jesus is passing this way" Ha! Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was passing by. Amen. One experience he had with Jesus Christ visiting his house only, Zacchaeus from, what do you call them? A corrupt government official, collecting bribes, Amen. He became converted and was ready to even make restitution on

his own. One time he jammed with the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus visited him. Ha! Amen.

³⁷ Abraham also, God visited Abraham one time and even ate bread with him, I mean, what do you call it? He ate goat with him. From that day, blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. He saw the reality of God because that one visit gave a man and his wife, his wife of 90 years old, a baby. That one visit!

³⁸ Something that is impossible, totally impossible. One visit that God visited Abraham, Church this week God will visit somebody here. I say God will visit somebody here. Hallelujah. One visit! One! One visit! Amen. What did it produce? It gave him a son in his old age, in his old age. Is there any situation that has been written off in your life? But watch it, my emphasis is not the child that he got – it's the effect of that visit of God to Abraham.

³⁹ Because Abraham so believed God that God tested the faith. He told him, "That one child you have. Take him, and go and sacrifice him to me – go and kill him" Abraham did not doubt. The Bible says, why did he not doubt? Praise the Lord. Why did he not doubt? He believed God, that God who was able, ah! Can we read it in Hebrews? Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord! Let's open it, Hallelujah! Chapter 11

⁴⁰ I love that testimony there. It's very encouraging to every sincere Christian. Amen. Now, Hebrew Chapter 11 if you are there. Now, I'll read it, Amen, from verse 17. See the testimony here. It says,

¹⁷***“By faith— revelation now, revelation - Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son],”***

Which promise did Abraham receive? That in his seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed and that he will make him a father of many nations and the only pikin he has now through whom the promise will come to pass, that same God is telling him, “go and offer him for sacrifice to me.” Verse 18,

¹⁸***“Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:***

- Verse 19 is the answer, why did he offer that child? –

¹⁹***“Accounting – that is, believing - that God [was] able to raise [him] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”***

⁴¹ That is, Abraham knew that from a dead womb, Isaac was produced. If God says, “Go and sacrifice

him". This same God that has power for a 90-year-old woman to produce a child, this same God, can raise him up again from the dead. Halleluyah. Why? It was an experience that drove him to that faith. A genuine experience with God made Abraham never to limit God for anything. And so, he was ready to obey, even to sacrifice his only begotten son. Why? He believed. If God said, do it! It means He has something else better, higher He wants to do. But how many people here, how many people here, how many people here can believe God for so much to that level?

⁴² And so, I was talking about Jacob the same way. Jacob number one, his identity was changed. Number two, that is his name was changed from Jacob to ... Israel, Amen. From Jacob to Israel and then secondly, before the angel will go - I hope you know that angel was God Himself, - I hope you know it was God Himself, praise the Lord, in angelic form. Before He went, finally now, He broke his - the bone of his thigh. Why will God that loves somebody so much, change his identity, change his name, bless him; but in blessing him again, He broke his thigh bone. Why? Amen. That was to humble that young man, Jacob. Humble him in such a way and leave a mark that he will continually remember the day he met with God.

⁴³ Each time he is going, somebody who was so proud of himself before, upright, healthy, jumping up and down. All of a sudden if he wants to stand up now he has to be careful. Now he started walking now, limping. Now he started walking, limping. Amen. And some of us here have nothing to show as evidence that you have met with God. What have you lost because you have given your life to Christ? What, what, what, do you have to show?

⁴⁴ Apostle Paul said, from henceforth let no man trouble me, say, for I bear on me the mark, the mark of Christ. The mark of Christ is not a cross you hang o! Some people hang cross and say that is the mark of Christ. It's not the mark of Christ o! The mark of Christ is suffering for Christ's sake. All he had, he counted them as dung for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ. You see, and these stories are there for you and I to see something about this God we are worshipping, because we are coming to the same God. He does not change His principles. It's the same principles every day. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

⁴⁵ Jacob's thigh was broken, the way he used to walk changed, but today you are coming to see Christians who don't want their former identity changed you just want to add Jesus to your old identity. It must affect the way you dress. It must affect the way you talk. It affects – some places you can't go there

anymore. It gives you certain limitations – there are things you cannot do for Christ’s sake. From the day that you meet with Him there must be something you will hold on to. Church! If you have not, if you don’t have such a testimony, you have not yet started your Christian journey. Now I’m not threatening you, every one of us will surely, surely have those stories to tell, definitely, definitely, definitely. Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Don’t compare yourself because everybody will go his own way and then once that is done, the Bible says, if a man’s way pleases the Lord, He maketh him to be at peace. You know the story, that after he met with the Lord, when he woke up, you know what happened later, the enemy that was look for him to kill him suddenly began to make peace with him. Amen.

⁴⁶ All those witches tormenting you, all those landlords giving you quit notice for nothing. All those, who were disturbing you in your office for nothing; all those enemies around you disturbing you; sometimes you think it’s for nothing, sometimes it’s not for nothing. You are paying for something. Every time in the office you are very proud. Every time you are this, you are that. Amen. After this week we are entering. Halleluyah. After this week we are entering, all your enemies will come and make peace with you in the name of Jesus. (Congregation shouts: Amen!) Witches will come

before you and begin to confess. They will bring your picture that they have kept in a shrine all this while and say, “*abeg take back your glory*” why? If a man’s way pleases the Lord, the emphasis is in you pleasing the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah.

⁴⁷ We have Isaiah, Isaiah also. He was serving God in Israel faithfully the way he could but one day, God opened his eyes to see the throne of God. He saw those angels with wings and Cherubim with wings. He saw the glory of God in Isaiah chapter 6. Praise the Lord. And the first thing Isaiah saw after he saw the Glory of God, what did he say? He shouted Oh! I am done, for I am a man of unclean lips. Every true experience you meet with God, the first thing it does is that it makes you take an inward look at yourself.

⁴⁸ Isaiah saw his deficiency, saw his weakness, such a person will no longer be proud. You will soon discover that you as a human being – you are nothing. You will soon discover that without God you are nothing. You are who you are today by His grace. All the money you have is by His grace. All the beauty you have is by His grace. It’s true. All the clothes you have, it’s by His grace. The men that are chasing you up and down you are selecting, is by His grace. Because there is another woman that is more beautiful than you, *nobody dey come meet am*.

You see, then all of a sudden you – life begins to be more meaningful to you. Then, you begin to sing a song, like the song our choir sang, **“what will you give, what will you give, what will you give in exchange for your soul, O if today God should call it away, what will you give in exchange for your soul?”** Then life begins to be more meaningful. It’s true now. Sister you are young now, you are fine. Has it ever occurred to you that it’s just a matter of time, age will come very soon and all that beauty will fade away? It’s true.

⁴⁹ The life of a woman is like the life of a rising sun. Amen. In a certain age you are like the sun just coming out fresh in the morning. When it is 12 o’clock that is when you are 18, 19, 20, 21. Oh! So pretty because every part of you is fully matured; All the beauty comes out *gbam!* And that is the time you think you are something. That is the time you want to look like those television stars. That is the time you want to go for beauty contest, because you want the whole world to see how beautiful you are. That is the time you want to dress and show your nakedness so that they will really see and know you are a pretty girl. But this thing, *e dey expire, it expires, it expires*. The sun is so bright now; it is the middle of the day. By the time it’s getting to 4 o’clock, 5 o’clock the sun is getting down. Amen. Halleluyah.

⁵⁰ There's a poet that wrote that when a woman is from 60 years old, is it 50 or 60 years old? It says that she's like Siberia. Everybody knows about Siberia but nobody wants to go there. Amen. And so, this is the time you begin to think, it's true, "what if I die now?" where will I be? People joke with their eternal destination, what if I die now? What if I die? Have you ever asked this – asked yourself this question? Brother, sister, do you know that when we say, untimely death, untimely death. We are saying untimely by the enemy o. but God has the time for every one of us to die.

⁵¹ *God has the time, true children of God dey die. Born again Christians dey die, wicked people dey die.* Now, so, so, anytime you see an obituary in the paper or your brother die or your age mate die. I sat down I was looking at my mates from school, how many have died? I was looking at members of my family with my wife, we were counting since we married 1986, from 1986, she was counting all the members of my family that died, one after the other, one after the other and she was saying, "*Ah, ground don swallow people for your house o*". It's true now, they're so many, so many and if they go what makes me think that I will not go too. But how you go, where you are going is what we are concerned, it's what we are preparing this life for; as you are enjoying your life on earth, prepare, there is life beyond this place. It's true. There is life beyond this

place. That is what Christianity is all about. It's preparation for the life after now. It's a preparation for the life after now. And the only ones that have any hope for a good life after now are born again Christians, and that is Christians who have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

⁵² *Christ in you the hope of glory*; that is the experience – the experience is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Something that happens and gets you connected to heaven, connected to the Source of life. Then you can say I have eternal life. Anyone that has eternal life – has the Life of God. You have eternal life, you will live eternally. It says, in my Father's house there are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you. So that where I am, and where Jesus Christ is, is a glorious place. I want to be where He is. Praise the Lord and He's preparing us now to join Him by experience. And when you have that experience, you ask less questions about the commandments of God. Anything for righteousness, you do it gladly, gladly, gladly. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, Blessed, be the Name of the Lord.

⁵³ Christianity can be costly, very, very costly but the experience you have undergone, the experience you have with God is what keeps you anchored. It comforts you. It gives you an assurance. That gives you comfort no matter what you are going through

now. You see, so it's so important. Your Christian faith starts from that experience. What He gives you – the rest is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Do everything you can and be part of it, I say this confidently.

⁵⁴ Before they got to the Promised Land, Halleluyah, God told Moses to send some spies to go and see it so that they will go and bring some report. Amen. I cannot talk about the Holy Ghost if I have not experienced it. Praise the Lord, Halleluyah, Joshua too before entering Jericho, he sent some spies to go and see how it is. So that when they come they can make the people have faith that this thing is real.

⁵⁵ Remember I used to tell people, I say, it's not every pastor that can organise baptism of the Holy Ghost. It's not under every pastor you can receive the ... the Holy Ghost – it's not every pastor. And some End-Time Message pastors that it's just grammar they will describe – describe the Holy Ghost, this is how it is, it is academics. They are describing what they read in a book or what they read in the Bible.

⁵⁶ But the Holy Ghost is practical. It's practical. It's practical. Don't let anybody give you an academic definition of the Holy Ghost and tell you, "...you see, believe, you see, you have it, if you don't have it you won't come to a church like this." Devil

comes to a church like this; witches come to a church like this. That you come here is not the evidence that you have received the Holy Ghost.

⁵⁷ And don't say, "*you see, I no dey steal, I no dey thief, I no dey fornicate, I no dey, I no dey,*" Eh! That is by your effort. You must also be able to come at a point in your Christian life where you can look at yourself and say, "*Ah, Moses na you be this? Something has happened*", if not, it is self-righteousness you are struggling and it will not last. That's why the Bible called it, "filthy rag" because some situations will come and shake-shake that your faith. You will know that you are not born again, nothing. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

⁵⁸ And when Satan targets you, he knows how to get everybody. He can plan for you for 20 years. He can plan for you, because I read in a website, a popular church in this End-Time Message, the pastor pasted a letter that he wrote in 1991 when he first ... in 1990 when he first saw this End-Time Message.

⁵⁹ He was in the church of Yahweh, pastoring that church before. He saw that and came into this faith and he heard the pastor of that church speaking against the gift of the Holy Ghost and he wrote him a letter, he pasted it in the website, I saw the letter. After he met the pastor personally to say, "I hear you speak about - against the gift and things like

that”, and proved scripturally in a serious epistle, proving scripturally that a church is not complete without the gifts of the Holy Ghost and that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is what establishes you, your faith.

⁶⁰ And – but that same pastor in nineteen ninety ... 1990 he wrote that letter. Now! He’s pastoring a church now and it is a church full of grammar. You say, “Thus saith the Lord”, He say, “Shut up!” why? He has described, “If it is the Holy Ghost, this is the way the Holy Ghost will act. In the Acts of Apostles, if the Holy Ghost, if somebody, if you fall under the anointing, if it is the Holy Ghost that makes you fall under anointing, you will fall forward, you don’t fall backward” you see, and he doesn’t know the devil has finished him, completed, concluded.

⁶¹ And if you fall down violently under anointing you are possessed. Take her – take her out. You see that’s what I’m saying because he himself has not yet had his own experience. But I have an experience church, like Joshua and Caleb; I have discovered that this Holy Ghost is real! He can change a sinner to a saint. I am the evidence. I know who I am and who I was. Written off, written off; totally written off. That my wife still remained with me as an unbeliever is still a miracle till today because I was so useless.

⁶² When a man has his wife at home and is keeping girlfriends, not even girlfriend, girlfriends. *So tay... them go dey phone, dey tell am say, "no be only you get that man o, make you release am make him commot"*. Some of you – it happens, and when the woman say, *"Eh, one girl, ehn, call"*, I go say, *"Ah, you no know how many wife my papa marry? Na only one I don marry yet now, some are coming now"*, so that the thing go pain am the more. Was that a human being? (Someone shouts NO!) You see? So, I was worse than an animal.

⁶³ Some of you are looking at me now as if your own no pass my own, (Congregation laughs) that is it, I'm telling you now that's the truth. If God can change me and even make me a preacher, He can change anybody here! He can change anybody here! (Congregation applauds and shout: Amen! Amen!) Those who know me they still don't believe that I am now a pastor, they can't believe it; can't believe it.

⁶⁴ I was sharing with my brother in the chur – in the office, I say, I say, "every Friday in the Air force base I was in charge of their disco". Very dedicated, I was the entertainment officer. You hold that office for only one year, it's a committee, and it's by election. All the officers in Lagos they will elect certain offices there. For the entertainment member, every year for 4 years when I was posted to Lagos, I

was there, I was nominated and elected. The next year, everybody say, “Unopposed! Make we return him”

⁶⁵ The second yea again, Unopposed – return him. Four years, I was the oldest one there, why? I started organizing disco for them once a month, they were enjoying it. They say, they come and meet me say, “Alu, why don’t you do it like twice in a month?” We decided to do it twice in a month; it was too interesting they said, “why not do it every week?” Dancing for whom? For Devil! Devil! Every night club in Lagos knew me. From Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday we were in the night club. My wife is here now she will bear you – Go and find out. That’s why, when one sister stood up and said, “She wants to marry a man like me”, I said, “ehhhh”, (Congregation laughs) “*you only know me for pulpit*. If you really want to know who I am go and meet my wife first”. Praise the Lord. If you know me at that time, you will never like me to be your husband.

⁶⁶ Amen. Every Friday! I gave my life to Christ. I said every Friday, I was going to dance for devil in night clubs and when God gave me opportunity to be a pastor, I say the church, every Friday will be night vigil, we will be dancing for Jesus (Congregation applauds and shout: Amen! Amen!), and we’ll be dancing for Jesus. That’s the only

thing that will give me peace. That's my only way of revenging for what the devil has used me all these years. And do you know what? As soon as I was arrested and detained, that was the last Friday they had program in that church - in that *ehm...* club - in that officers mess, till today. Because the person that was the anchor-man was gone, so the whole thing was closed and when I was released – I came out, see devil, they had meeting and said let them give the mess for me to run and then you know settle them every month. In fact, they are more interested – I should just come and take over whatever profit I make, I should just take over.

⁶⁷ The officer was telling me when I went to his office, the president of the mess committee, he said somebody stood up there and said: “Alu is Born Again now o, he's born again now” you will never use my poverty to attract, to, to, to make me go back to the world, go back to night club. Go back – I didn't have any job, no money, nothing. They wanted to entice me with, “come and run it, come and – any money you make take it”, and I would have made a lot of money, but I'm now born again. That is the cost of Christianity, That's the cost of Christianity.

⁶⁸ What of you? I am evidence that if a man be in Christ he is a new creature. I didn't say I'm a perfect person, I have my weaknesses. I didn't say so. But

you can see me and know that this man, *he don see God*. I have seen Him, He is real. When I pray, He answers. Halleluyah, when I call upon Him, He manifests, that is the truth; I have seen Him fight battles for me like He fought for Jehoshaphat. I have seen Him scatter people that gather against me. I have seen, yes, like He did to Jacob, He did it to me. People I was owing money called me and said, “*I have pardoned you, dey go, dey go, don’t pay me back*”, I say, “me?” they said, “yes don’t pay me back.” I have seen this God in action, I was sick – dying of sickness, and He came and healed me. I believe it. He is real! If a man be in Christ he is a new creature, I believe it with the whole of my heart because I am the evidence. If you are the evidence can you tell your neighbour, “I am one of them”, No! No! *If you never experience*, keep quiet. Listen to people who have experienced Christ. I am the evidence. Amen.

⁶⁹ And that is why I am sure when I say, “receive the Holy Ghost”; He will give you the Holy Ghost (Congregation shouts: Amen!). I’m not saying “let me try and see, maybe He will give”. I am sure, I am certain that this God we serve, He is real and one prayer He answers quickly under the right atmosphere is prayer for your spiritual life.

⁷⁰ Anytime you say, “Lord, visit me”, He will do it. “Lord, change this nature”, He will do it. “My

prayer life, change it”, if you’re sincere, He will change it. “I can’t fast. Lord, make me fast”. There are people that will pack up and come and stay in this church for three days– for the whole six days, sleeping here *for this mosquito*. What are they sleeping for? I need eternal life. God will never overlook such a sacrifice. And those of you who are not – who are too busy but wherever you are, you will be fasting, what are you fasting for? This week o, I must meet with God. And don’t say, “I already have the Holy Ghost”, and you relax. No! You can’t have enough of Him. If you have, you have Him in a measure – you want more, more, more, and more. Blessed be the Name of the Lord (Congregation replies: Halleluyah!), blessed be the Name of the Lord (Congregation replies: Halleluyah!), Blessed be the Name of the Lord! (Congregation replies: Halleluyah!) Hallelujah. This God! Somebody will give this same testimony as I have given at the end of this one week. (Congregation replies: Amen!) Let us stand up. (Congregation applauds)

Singing:

Oh, This is my earnest cry, - is that your prayer? -

This is my earnest desire

Give me the power to do your will

O Lord I pray

Oh, this is my earnest cry,

This is my earnest desire

Give me the power to do your will o Lord I pray.

