

THE GUARDIAN

How God's Word and Spirit Guide the Believer



*"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:
I will guide thee with mine eye."*

PSALM 32:8

UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

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FOREWORD

The importance of the word of God cannot be overemphasized. The prophets of old understood this secret, and that is what illuminated their path throughout their journey. The word of God holds the power to instruct and liberate. This book, being an explicit one, has done justice in teaching the world that the Bible is a guide. Believers and nonbelievers alike have been living reckless lives. The idea of this book is to show people how they can become better than they are. Now, this does not happen overnight. Understanding that putting God's word first is the key to living a purposeful and fulfilled life, the author has taken it upon himself to share his knowledge. In the pages of this book, the author has broken down the word of God to make it very understandable. His ideas are not far-fetched, considering that they are backed up by Scripture. Something that struck me in this book is the author's insight that if our hospitals and remand homes turn into word centers, the world will be a better place. It also pricked my mind when I noticed that the author's approach to God's word is not that of one who merely knows the Bible but of one who has the mind of God.

This book points us to God, without whom we can do nothing. Having the word of God as a guide is the same as trusting Him completely to lead us. From this book I have learned that the Bible is not like the usual religious books we are accustomed to. Rather, the Bible proffers solutions to our problems, gives us undiluted truth and empowers us in grace. I also learned that the word of God can purify the heart of man. This means that no matter the pollution of the world, a man fixed on God will always be found pure and always heading in the

right direction. I have personally learned by experience that in the areas of my life that I have not checked with God's word, I tend to fail.

In conclusion, I would like to implore you not to treat this book as just any other book but to hold it dear, for it is full of revelations of God's word. God's words are true. Let the word of God dwell richly within you, for it will brighten your path, lead you in the paths of righteousness and, most importantly, set you free. You cannot go wrong when you are embedded in the word. May the peace of God abide with you. Amen.

SARAH SHETTIMA
IRON PILLAR SECRETARY

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CHAPTER ONE

The Guide

“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.”

JOHN R. W. STOTT

The word of God is the believer’s spiritual and physical guide, the navigational compass that transports you from earth to eternity. Get the word, and you have gotten it all.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

One of the greatest assets that have enabled tourists to find their destinations is a tourist guide. In fact, almost every organization tries to produce a guide that will help its clients, customers or passengers to locate it. A guide is an interesting tool for finding direction and locating a place or position at any given time. Technology has advanced to the point of providing the Global Positioning System, which uses satellites to enable people to locate their position anywhere. A guide can be found in hotels, restaurants and the aviation industry and, in fact, in

every sector of the nation, including the military. Teachers have their own guides too, which enable them to teach effectively: the lesson plan and teaching aids. It is impossible to live and survive in this present world without a guide. Guides are crucial because of their role in safety and protection.

God never leaves us without a guide either. He created man in His own image and after His likeness. He has made everything available to us. As it is written in the Holy Scripture, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

The word of God is a life-word that cuts deep into the world of darkness to bring out the glorious nature of God in our world.
So eat the word and change your world.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

The only place where you can see your true self is in the Holy Scripture. God’s word is life’s guide. As the popular saying goes, the Bible is the Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth; it is the Blessed Information Bringing Life Eternal. You can’t see your true identity when you neglect to study the Scripture. Failure is simply seeing yourself from the world’s view. Success is seeing yourself from the WORD VIEW. When things go wrong in your life, turn off the light of the world and turn on the light of the Scripture. The Scripture has the answer you are looking for.

Nothing except the Holy Scriptures can answer your needs. Man’s survival is tied to how much he studies, understands and does what the word says. The best way to survive is by following the principles and contents of the guide, known as the guideline. The Bible provides us with life’s guideline. It is God’s indisputable word. It is God-breathed writing (2 Timothy 3:16), and it is Spirit-enabled and superintended writing: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but

holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). The Bible is life’s manual that God has given to us. We are all pilgrims and cannot exist in this world if we don’t navigate by this manual, THE BIBLE. The Bible is not just literature. It is more than an encyclopedia and all the world’s literature put together. It is God revealing Himself to us in such a way that we can understand Him more and relate to Him better. The Bible has two parts:

1. The Old Testament
2. The New Testament

The Old Testament reveals to us the origin of life and the relationship God has with man. It extends to God’s commandments to man and gives us a broad view of God’s plans to redeem man. The prophets announced the coming and virgin birth of the Messiah and His life, trials, death and resurrection.

The New Testament contains the fulfillment of the old covenant: the birth of Christ, His messages and miracles, His teachings, trials, death, resurrection and ascension. These are all written in the Gospels. The Acts of the Apostles records the birth of the church age, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His great works in the expansion of the church. The Epistles were the letters written to the churches to preserve the unity of the faith and enforce sanctity in the church of Jesus.

The Epistles also reveal the Spirit’s virtues and godliness, which are Christian preservatives and necessary weapons for survival and the maintenance of daily victory. The Revelation of Christ was given to the church to inform it of the true realities of our faith, to correct erring congregations and bring them back to the authentic faith, and to get us ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Any true believer who wants to fulfill God’s purpose here on earth, serve God in humility and righteousness, and overcome all the wiles and darts of the enemy must make the word of God his daily delight.

The psalmist says, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8).

The word of God is God’s law. It is the message that God has given to man. It includes the instructions of God and God’s *modus operandi*. The more we take delight in (study) the word of God, the more we keep growing and glowing: “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). The more we commit ourselves to studying the word of God, the more our path keeps shining brighter and brighter: “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). The more we keep looking into the mirror of the word of God, the more we are transformed into the image of Christ, to the measure of the stature of His fullness: “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God’s word keeps a believer from sinning against God: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. ... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:9, 11). When the word of God is deeply rooted in our hearts, we will hate sin and all the works of the flesh. Satan will have no access point in our souls, because God’s word is our defense mechanism.

It is our weapon of war. Take up the sword of the Spirit: “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). God’s word fills our hearts with grace and truth and creates a conducive atmosphere for the Spirit of God to thrive. A fertile ground is a heart broken by the word of God. God’s word is life-explosive: when it is planted by faith, it erupts in miracles. Your level of understanding grows deep when God’s inspired word dwells in your spirit: “But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the

Almighty giveth them understanding” (Job 32:8). Make God’s word your delight today and experience God’s manifold miracles in your life.

CHAPTER TWO

God's Word and Your Profitability Ratio

“The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for.”

MARTIN LUTHER, *CONCERNING CHRISTIAN LIBERTY*

The amount of good works you give out in and to the world is directly proportional to the quantity of God's word inside you. He who carries nothing breaks nothing. So your warfare is determined by what you carry, and the ultimate weapon is carrying the living word of God.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The word of God, as considered earlier, is God's inspired and superintended writing. It is profitable. No word given or written by man can make you profitable as the word of God can. An encyclopedia can only give you information, but your profitability, success, prosperity, promotion, progress, peace and excellence in life are all hidden in the truth of the word of God. There is no true success, lasting progress or