

yearning for the word of God. It was a craving need. In Brotherhood of the Cross and Star you are inundated with word, word, word, twenty hours of the day, every day of the year. And yet it is never boring. After a while you seem to breathe and exude that word and eventually live the word. I have been drinking from what everlasting spring of life ever since. The following are synopses of the Father's sermons on various topics.

THOSE WHO WILL SEE GOD

Sermon delivered by the Father, Leader O. O. Obu
Sunday — 2nd December, 1984.

1st Lesson	Matthew 5:8
2nd Lesson	Matthew 7:5
Golden Text	Hebrews 12:14

Brethren, that is the revelation of our lesson this morning. After reading through the three texts, you will realize what is transpiring in the world. You will also realize why I tell you always to first remove the beam from your own eyes. Everything hands on the purification of your hearts. Leave your brother alone. leave your step brother alone, leave every other person alone.

I had them quoted from the book of Psalms "As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

THE PURE IN HEART

Right now the hope of all the whites is to see God. The hope of all the blacks, is equally to see God. God is here on earth, our Lord Jesus Christ is here on earth, the Holy Spirit is here on earth, all the children of God are here on earth, all the Saints are here on earth and all the prophets are here on earth. It has been made crystal clear to us that if our hearts are pure, we will see Him. This is not the business between a wife and a husband, nor of a brother and a sister, nor of a mother and a daughter; it is the business between you and your God. Do not continue to argue against the scriptures with any person. Forget about criticizing that a certain person is not good, or that the person has committed one offence or the other. Think first of yourself. This statement is made by our Lord Jesus Christ who is God Himself, that Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. His words are true. All those who continue to argue that no person can see God are themselves, anti-christ. But any person who believes fervently that whoever purifies his heart will surely see God, such a person is true.

MY FATHER WORKS HITHERTO AND I WORK.

Did our Lord Jesus Christ not see God? Did Philip not say unto Him, Lord show us the Father? Because of the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ was always making references to the Father, Philip became desirous to see the Father. What should concern you and me and the entire world most is how we are going to see the Father

Whosoever has the Father, must see Him, converse with him and his Father sees him and he resembles his Father. This is the answer that the Lord Jesus Christ provided the people when they said that since he healed on a Sabbath day, that he was not from God. And he answered and said unto them, "My Father worketh hitherto and I work." He also told them that the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do, these also do the Son likewise. If our Lord Jesus Christ did not see God, how do you think he would have done all the things He did.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SAW GOD BECAUSE HIS HEART WAS PURE

If his heart was not pure, do you think he would have been able to see God. Why were the disciples unable to see God? Because their hearts were not pure. Why is it that the inhabitants of the world cannot see God? Because their hearts are not pure. A similar thing was done to Stephen. Why was he stoned to death? When he stood before the council, and look steadfastly into heaven, declared saying "...Behold, I see the heavens open, and the son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears..." Claiming **Stephen** had committed a sin that no man had ever done. Why did they stone him? Because their hearts were not pure.

THE IMPURE IN HEART CANNOT SEE GOD

If your heart is not pure, you cannot see God. It is for this reason that John the Baptist was first sent to preach repentance to make it possible for you to see God. Because it is said, "Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Tell me how a malicious person will be able to see God. Tell me how a thief will be able to see God. Tell me how a fornicator will see God. Tell me how a person who begrudges others, will be able to see God. If you cannot see God today, it is your impurity of heart that is responsible.

WASH YOUR HANDS AND PURIFY YOUR HEARTS

Brethren, have you not, therefore, realized that it is a very important thing for us to do, to purify our hearts. All those who have their hope in him purify themselves even as He is pure. Coming here daily, monthly and yearly, does not serve us any useful purpose and cannot prompt us to see God if our hearts are not pure. Shouting and calling upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not enable you to see God. But if you purify your heart, if you do not begrudge any person, if you do not tell lies, if you do not steal, if you discontinue fornication, if you do not indulge in the preparation of concoction, and if you do not affix your heart in the mudance things of this world, but keep your heart pure and undefiled, then will you see Him. But now, your case is in the court, you are stealing, you are taking to medication, you are committing fornication, you are drinking you are hating people, and also speaking evil against people. At the same time, you are saying

until our Lord Jesus Christ comes, how are you sure that He has not yet come? **Have you not heard the word of God which says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God".**

GOD HAS ALWAYS LIVED WITH MAN ON EARTH

There had never been any point in time, when God did not exist, God did not abandon man here on earth after creating and goes to live on the sky. What useful purpose would it have served if after creating man, He left man to stay elsewhere. Have you not heard that when he created Adam and Eve, He was constantly going to see them? He was all the time conversing with them. You have also heard that when the Lord God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, Adam ran away to hide himself on hearing His voice. When the Lord called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" Adam answered and said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And God said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked?" He answered that "the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat". When he told God that he was naked, God knew that he had eaten that forbidden fruit and so asked him, "Have you eaten that forbidden fruit?" and he said it was the woman you gave me who induced me to eat. Can you realise how darkness fell upon mankind? Since then, do you think God had gone away to Somewhere else? He has not. He is with us. What God did, was to instruct that he and his wife should be bundled out of the garden so that he would not have access to the Tree of life.

WHO EVER HAS A PURE HEART RECEIVES GOD'S BLESSING

Brethren you will see that there is nothing worrying any of us apart from possessing an impure heart. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ has said that if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ or there; believe it not "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert, go not forth, behold, he is in the secret chambers, believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Our Lord Jesus Christ is here, God is here, the Holy Spirit is here, all the children of God are here, all the Apostles of God are here, all the Elders of God are here, all the Prophets of God are here, all the angels are here. Everything hangs on one thing, that is it depends upon having a pure heart. You have heard one spiritual chorus, "The power of the day of pentecost, whoever has a pure heart will receive God's blessing."

YOUR SINS ARE ALWAYS BEFORE YOU BUT DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SINS.

Everything depends upon having a pure heart. Ask yourself this question, "is my heart pure?" Before you left your house this morning, you had inflicted corporal punishment on your child; you had quarrelled with your wife or your husband; you had quarrelled with your neighbour; you had cursed your house-maids plenty of times; you

had suspected a woman of being intimate with your husband; you had suspected a man of being intimate with your wife; you had accused somebody of being indebted to you. When you continue to fill your hearts with all these filthy things, how will you be able to see God. You complain that people have individually done one thing or the other to you but you have never done anything against anybody. It is only people who offend you, you have never known what evil things you have committed, you are only conscious of the sins of others.

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

If you are pure, why should you see evil. It is said, Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. You profess to be pure but you always see demons, apparition, ghosts, juju, concoction, mermaid and have never seen God. If somebody tells you that he has seen God, you will want to kill yourself, saying he has blasphemed against God. What is the wind? What is the rain? What is the moon? What is the sun? What do you think all the things you see around you are? Are they not God? Have you not heard that He is the Omnipresent God? He is present everywhere and is in all things. Who is sitting down there? Who is the one standing there? what about the other person lying down there? Who is he? The whole of this place is filled with God, why is it that you have not seen Him. Because your hearts are not pure. Some people say they are going to the sun, if you go to the sun with an impure heart you cannot see Him. When you go into the waters with an impure heart, what do you expect to see there? When you pray with an impure heart, what are you going to say. Here lies all the problems.

LIVE PEACEABLY WITH EVERYMAN

This is the time for each of us to seek for God for himself by going in a pure and perfect way. That is why it is said, "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord". It is not an easy thing for any person to see God. Have you not seen the condition given? Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. This implies that they alone are qualified to see God. Everytime you are complaining "my heart is not good," I tell you, you will perish with that condition. You profess to be a Bishop, Pope, communicant, a church founder and whatever you call yourself, but you say that your heart is not good. Where will you see God. God is there by your right, left, in front, behind, inside you and lavishly found everywhere. And God had promised that whoever has a pure heart will see Him. People are prophesying that God is here on earth, it has been written and circulated but you are still arguing, why are you arguing?

TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS TO BE BLINDED

You say that you are waiting for the time our Lord Jesus Christ will come down and I ask Christ and God who is the greatest? Our Lord Jesus Christ testified that he was sent by God; this same Christ said that whoever has a pure heart will see God but you

still doubt. Do you see where our stupidity had led us to? Our Lord Jesus Christ has accepted that he is the Son. He has also made it known that the "Father is greater than I, I am in the Father and the Father dwells in me; I came from the Father." But this morning He has told you, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Now reason together and tell me, is your heart not focused on money? Have you not buried your hearts in children? Have you not buried your heart in women? Have you not buried your heart in all the mundane things of this world? How will you be able to see God? That has been your greatest problem in life. If He were not present everywhere, who gives you food? Who protects you? Who gives you life and everything in life? Many people argue erroneously that God has abandoned this earth for satan, and I ask you, what is satan? When He leaves this world, where do you think he will go.

BLIND CANNOT LEAD THE BLIND

Brethren such utterances come from the unbelievers. Why people continue to steal, and tell lies, and fornicate, is that they feel the day has not yet dawn. A blind man does not know when the day breaks. Because if you tell a blind man to accompany you to somewhere, he will tell you not to worry him that the day is not yet dawn. You cannot blame him because he does not see. That is why it is said the blind cannot lead the blind.

When the blind leads the blind both of them will fall into a pit.

YOU CAN SEE GOD NOT ONLY IN THE DREAM

Brethren let all the inhabitants of the world reason together and ponder over this gospel of today. Because God is true and His words are true. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Every time you testify that you have see God in a dream, must he always be God of dream? Can you not see Him face to face? Some say, they have not even heard His voice nor dreamt of Him. Does it mean that after creating you, he absconded to somewhere else? Trouble your hearts no more, it is given that all the inhabitants of the world should keep themselves pure and sanctified. Since we want to see God, we, therefore have to follow peace with all men and as much as lies within our power, live, peacefully with all men. Try to live in love, in honesty, and in truth. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother had ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

There is nothing pure to the impure in heart. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things". In the same token when our Lord Jesus Christ came in his last advent, the people did not believe Him but they were wtil gazing at the sky. When they arrested Him if their eyes were opened to realize that He was God, do you think they would have crucified Him?

AVOID ARGUMENTS AND DISPUTINGS

If your heart is not pure, you cannot differentiate between black and white or any other colour. You will regard every colour as the same. Do not bother any person, do not ask any questions; do not make any arguments, try as much as it lies within your power to keep your heart pure. If somebody tells you he has seen God, do not argue with him. If somebody says he has not seen God, do not argue with him. It is for you to try as much as possible to refrain from sin and lead a good life so that you can see Him. The Great Teacher tells us that Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Do not doubt, do not ask any questions. It is given that all the inhabitants of the world should try as much as possible to keep their hearts pure and to refrain from all manners of sins. The next topic is on evil communication

BLASPHEMING AND EVIL COMMUNICATION ARE UNPARDONABLE

Sunday — 11th November, 1984

1st Lesson Matthew 5 : 22
2nd Lesson James 3 : 6
Golden Text Matthew 12 : 32

LET NO EVIL COMMUNICATION PROCEED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH

Brethren, what is read to you constitutes the theme of our lesson this morning. There is every element of truth in the statement made, "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." It is the same as the passage which says, "...How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God." For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man enter into the Kingdom of God." It is also exactly as the story of Shylock and Anthony. Anthony was indebted to Shylock to the tune of a large sum of money. If Anthony was unable to refund, Shylock was to get a pound of flesh from near his heart.

During the judgement, it was held that a pound of flesh should be cut exactly as earlier agreed upon but that no drop of blood spill on the ground. How will it be possible to cut off a pound of flesh from a person's body without spilling blood? How will a camel pass through the eye of a needle? How will it be possible that when you blaspheme against the Son of Man, you will be forgiven?

THE WORD IS GOD

It is said, I and the Father are one, God is the word. It is said, whoever makes blasphemous statements will not be forgiven; such a person stands to perish. Whoever allows evil communications to proceed out of his mouth is damned. The message here is short, do not let evil words proceed out of your mouth. Do not speak evil because what brings confusion and trouble into the world, are evil utterances. Who is the Holy Spirit?

once the Holy Lamb of Jehovah, but now the Judge of the Universe; In the name of he who is now on all thrones and can be found ministering a second time on earth; In the name of that Being in its most United Trinity and dressed after in Scarlet; In the name of the one who has complete control over nature and the universe; in the name of Truth and Light submit and yield obedience to all my demands."

Immediately, the former intransigent being became congruent and confessed as follows: In the name of the Holy One of Isreal in its most United Trinity who was formerly crucified by the world and is now on mercy seat and dressed in scarlet. The most Omnipotent and omnipresent. He who is found on all thrones and in all planes both Astral and Terranean - In the name of my Judge Olumba Olumba Obu who is dressed in scarlet and having a rod of Iron, he who cannot be crucified a second time.

He who is now on earth in Zonal Entity of Africa. In the name of he who was persecuted and is still being persecuted, whose dominion extends from one end to another and in eternity; in the name of the orders of Supreme Astral Council, I submit to whatever demands you and my guest can make, Amen!"

We immediately saw at all streets, and poles and gates the Holy name, OLumba OLumba Obu being written. The Gate-Point was opened but we refused to go in further, because we have found the Truth and must publicise the result to the world who must either accept it or refuse it."

I dare say the world's three foremost occultists - P.C. Aggarwal, alias Dr. J. S. Bazie, an Indian, West Germany's Emmanuel and Nigeria's Professor Assassu Inyang-Ibom would easily identify or recognise a brother occultist. The three adepts had a specific goal in mind, and knew how to get about achieving their objectives. Their investigations are so well documented as to enable the Scientific world and like-minded interests to undertake similar or more extensive missions.

I was privileged, though, to see and I quote, "My Judge Olumba Olumba Obu ... He who cannot be crucified a second time." Sit at Conference with Lucifer and other unidentified Beings. They all were seated clad in white shirts and white shorts. As the Father was addressing the gathering, He Lucifer was murmuring and discrediting Him at every turn, while at the same time trying to distract the attention of others. None of them paid heed to him as they listened attentively to the Father. Lucifer then became boisterous and his voice drowned the Father's. The Father stopped talking and remained absolutely calm and unruffled. A Being by my left had pointed out Lucifer to me.

Leader Olumba Olumba Obu once bore the sins of the world for the remission of our sins, and by His stripes we are healed. This was revealed to me about four years ago. I can still see His face conformed with pain, His sagging shoulders as He was taken down from the cross. On His forehead and encircling His head were imprints of pricks. There was a red mark on each palm, on each foot and on His side. On either side of Him stood two Beings who were steadying Him on His feet. His body glistened with sweat - there was only a small cloth round His groin. One of the Beings rubbed Him down with a white napkin. Just then He looked back over his left shoulder stiffly and seeing me

ordered that the sweat soaked napkin be wrapped around me. This was so done. Yes, the man crucified was Olumba Olumba Obu.

CHAPTER 6

OUTWARD APPEARANCES ARE DECEPTIVE —

SERMON DELIVERED BY LEADER O. O. OBU

THE SOLE SPIRITUAL HEAD ON SUNDAY 8/6/86

1st Lesson : Romans 9 : 25—26

2nd Lesson : Luke 14 : 21

Golden Text : I Corinthians 1 : 28

Have you seen how the wisdom of God has always eluded man. Unfortunately man is pigheaded and does not learn from past experiences. In this regard is a wild beast more circumspect than man. For example, a beast will always avoid going near a snare which had caught its kind. Not so with man. He will not heed the danger signal. He in his vanity would retrace the route taken by his predecessor blaming the other's failure on his lack of foresight and carelessness. But he finally ends up in the same quagmire. For example, a sensible man steers clear of a woman divorced on account of adultery. But you find men going head long to contract marriage with such women unmindful of their past record. Are they not aware that such women cannot make faithful wives? Take another example—the case of money doublers. In spite of the wide publicity given to the activities of these tricksters, many victims fall prey to them.

When did God use the mighty to confound the lofty? When did He use the prominent to reveal Himself? You will recall that Christ was born of poor and low parentage in an obscure and insignificant village called Nazareth. That He in addition was born in a manger was the ultimate. Who could believe that the Son of the Most High God would make such an unpretentious entry into this plane. But the High Priests and scholars and acclaimed doyen of knowledge had lost sight of the prophecy of Moses read in our Lesson. I quote, "Those who were not my people I will call, my people; and he who was not beloved I will call, my beloved' . . . 'sons of the living God'." They had forgotten that heaven and earth would not pass away until everyword of God was fulfilled.

Take heed you be not deceived by appearances this time around. Cogitate on the passages read to you this morning. Wondrous things are being unfolded before you day in and day out without making any impressions on your consciousness. God's ways are unfathomable and beyond man's comprehension. Man's ways are not God's and his thoughts are at variance with God's. Those dubbed evil by man may be righteous before God and vice versa. God reckons much on the despised of this world.

You will recall the story of Zaccheaus the tax collector. To the Jews he was an abominable sinner. But it was to him the Lord had extended a hand of fellowship, When He said, "Zaccheaus, come down, I am going to your house today". What about Mary Magdalene who was a lady of very easy virtue and possessed of seven devils. You will

remember how she on seeing the Christ in the house of Simeon the Leper, wept at the feet of Our Lord Jesus Christ, wiped His feet with her hairs and anointed them with a very expensive sweet smelling ointment. His association with such despised members of the community gave rise to doubts as to His divine identity.

I have orchestrated these points to put you on your guard so that you are not deceived. Do not be taken in by outward appearance for godliness does not depend on gorgeous attires and ornately adorned pews in the church. Ponder on what class of men the disciples of Christ were.

In the Jewish community at the time were learned the men, high priests, lawyers, who made pretensions to understanding the signs of the times and were confidently awaiting the advent of the Christ. The same could not be said of Peter, poor fisherman struggling to make ends meet. The X called him at the sea side, forlorn, exhausted and dejected after have failed to make a catch the previous night. He was ordered to launch out into the deep and cast his net. He must have been sceptical about the wisdom of such an action. At any rate when he did cast his net he found that his catch was so great that the net was bursting. As it were, the scales seemed to have dropped from his eyes for he exclaimed, "Depart from me for I am unclean." The bible states that the reverence of God is the beginning of wisdom.

The Christ informed him that from that moment he was to be made a fisher of men. The well-placed members of the society were not chosen.

Like Peter, other disciples were ordinary very simple folk. Persons like Matthew who was a tax collector was regarded as woeful sinners. Hence the Christ was accused of being in league with evil men and so was also a sinner. When Mary Magdalene joined the group—that was considered as the ultimate. Those who regarded themselves righteous despised the Christ and His followers and by so doing had overlooked the prophecy of Hosea as recorded in our First lesson. Roman 9 : 25—26

"As he saith also in Hosea. I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God."

The Jews regarded the Christ as unlearned and so wondered at the source of His knowledge. Reflected on this point. May there be no repeat performance in this era.

Furthermore, the fact that the Christ was of the tribe of Judea which had never laid claims to any priesthood ruled out the possibility of the Christ emerging from there—so summarised the religious leaders.

The priestly calling of John the Baptist was not in doubt because he descended from a line of priests and His father Zacharias was the High Priest the year he was conceived and was born.

So the Jews had every reason to doubt the divinity of the Christ. It was no easier for His blood relations to believe that He came from God and was the Son of God. After all was He not begotten of the same earthly parents? What was the distinguishing feature that set Him apart from others. God is unfathomable; His ways are not ours.

Joseph found himself in the same dilemma. He was misunderstood and hated by his other brethren. They could not accept the fact that he was chosen out of the twelve of them. He was the 11th child of Jacob their father. His dreams of the moon and sun and eleven stars bowing to his own star, and again of eleven hay stacks bowing to his so infuriated his brethren that he was ultimately sold into slavery. But did it debar the fulfillment of the dreams. The bible states that God has always used the low estate to debase the lofty. You will recall that David the last of eight children was chosen by God. Can you imagine with what animosity he was held by the other seven after his anointing by Prophet Samuel. Who can understand God? From man's point of view one would have expected the eldest to be favoured. By so allowing yourselves to try to explain God by your finite minds, you end up resisting His will. Let go of your acclaimed wisdom and knowledge and like babes embrace God and His teachings whole heartedly. God despises the proud and the mighty for He is mighty. He is a jealous God. He puts down the proud and exalts the humble.

1st Lesson : —Roman 9 : 25—26

“As he saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.”

I hope that those of you who have inflated opinion of themselves and of their importance have grasped the significance of the text. Our God is Omnipotent and Omniscient. He can bring into existence what was not and annihilate what was. The mission of our Lord Jesus Christ was centred around the lost sheep of Israel—the poor, down trodden and the oppressed. In this new era, this dispensation has been extended to the Gentiles. God does His things when and in accordance with His divine purpose. Who is there to question God? If He decides to reveal Himself to the untutored simple ordinary men, what has it got to do with you. You, who lay claims to all knowledge and mysteries, would you have opened up to receive His teachings? God is just and righteous and man

is sinful. To the poor and the despised He exhorts, "do not weep for your redeemer is here." Could it be that you would rather the poor perished in their sin and misery? Can't you discern that now the cradle of civilisation is at your door step?

Do not be spiteful if God decides to reveal Himself to those regarded as sinners. The Jewish religious leaders rejected our Lord Jesus Christ because their position was threatened by the fame of the Son of a carpenter. Caiaphas, being the High Priest advised that it was better for one man to die than the whole world perish. For had our Lord Jesus Christ come from the line of Priests—the line of Aaron, He would have strictly observed the religious traditions of the sect. And so Caiaphas saw the urgent need for his group to maintain and preserve their status quo at all cost. From the human point of view God does the unexpected to disgrace the acclaimed mighty and the learned. Be warned; do not allow yourselves to be deceived by appearances. Was it not prophesied that Elijah would precede the advent of the Christ. Elijah did indeed herald the Christ. But were the Jewish Priests and their learned men aware of that fact? No. They had expected Elijah to erupt from the sky in a chariot drawn by winged horses. Hence they did not discern that John the Baptist was the expected Elijah. It is pitiful that about 2,000 years after the episode the present day Jews are still awaiting Elijah and the Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is God Himself. "He moves in a mysterious way, His purpose to perform. Do not be surprised if your naughty and perhaps difficult child exclaims that he has seen an angel of God or prophesies and gives visions. God's ways are not ours.

2nd Lesson — Luke 14 : 21.

"So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

Job had said that at first he had heard the voice of God but later he had come to see God face to face. When he was in affluence with everything going well for him was the time he only heard the voice of God. It was when he was in great despair—stricken by abject poverty, robbed of his children and deserted by friends and wife that he saw God. Only the oppressed, the sick and the poor see God. If you have never experienced hunger, for example you cannot fully appreciate God's manifold blessings. The Christ highlighted this fact when He said that it was only the sick who sought out a physician. In another place He said that He did not come for the righteous but to call sinners to repentance, you would recall that He healed the lame man who had for years lain beside the pool of Bethesda. At Bethesda He cured the man born blind of his infirmity, and from Mary Magdalene He cast out seven demons. You would have noticed that person cited above had need of the Master and that was why He went to their rescue. If Peter and Andrew

had had a good catch while out fishing, they would not have had the urge to accept the Christ's invitation. They would have been preoccupied with arrangement for the marketing of their fish. Had Saul not been struck blind, he would not have been converted. It is better to be poor and inherit the Kingdom of God than to be rich and go to hell.

How many people can abandon comforts of their homes, their cosy chairs and down-feather beds and would rather spend a whole day on hard wooden seats listening to the word of God. But if you must undergo certain hardships to earn the Kingdom of God, then you would have lost nothing. To Simeon, the leper who was displeased that Mary Magdalene had anointed the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ with an expensive oil, the Christ had given a parable. It was about a man who was owed various sums of money by two of his servants. When they could not pay back the money, he wrote off the debts. The inference was that his servant who had owed a greater sum of money would feel the more grateful.

Our Lord's final invitation was to the broken hearted, the oppressed, and the afflicted. They honoured his invitation. So you should not be surprised if God manifests His power and glory amongst this group of persons, by way of miracles and spiritual gifts. Do you now grasp why you are not bestowed with similar gifts, God does not despise the broken hearted and accepts those with contrite hearts. Those who profess to be righteousness feel no compunction and have no need of our Lord. The back sliders are those who are self-insufficient. The rich of this world have already earned adulation But remember the adage, 'he who laughs last laughs best'.

Every word of God must be fulfilled. God uses the despised to abase the mighty. as no professors, the rich and the healthy can sincerely look for God, none of them can be selected by Him. It is only the sick, the poor, the afflicted who want Him. When a blind man is cured of his blindness and a poor man becomes rich, there is cause to jubilate and glorify God. As recorded in the Prophets—'they shall be my children and I their God. There will be no more deaths, no weeping and crying. God shall wipe all tears from their eyes.

Golden Text: 1st Corinthians 1:28.

"And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought thing that are."

Some of you despise your brethren when they are sick and despise your poor relations. In your prayers, you implore God not to allow you fall sick or become poor. The despised are endowed with spiritual gifts that are denied the affluent. You may lack money, but through your prayers other brethren might be blessed with riches. Do not think it strange if a new member is cured of his afflictions while despite your long membership in the Brotherhood, you have received no relief from your illness, God knows best. Those who receive immediate response to their requests are not yet elected. They tend to backslide. It does happen that God can through the prayers of a particular blind man, restores sight to another blind man, while the former remains in his

dark world. Sicknesses, poverty and other afflictions are carnal and have no bearing on the spiritual. The kingdom of God is bestowed on the poor and the despised to humiliate the mighty.

Generally, women are looked down upon by the men folk and are barred from carrying out certain functions despicted as exclusively for men. Take the preaching of the gospel. Some denomination descriminate against women preachers and yet some of them make better preachers than men. If you take a look at spiritual manifestations here in the Brotherhhod, you would discover that God uses the simple, ordinary members to perform mighty works.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was accused of using the power of Belzeebob to effect miracles. He was held out as a sinner and His association with the so-called evil persons only vindicated their allegations. Similarly in this era, the Brotherhood is dubbed the congregation of evil doers and murderers. And yet our supposed accusers are the first to advise their relations or friends to seek remedy in the Brotherhood for their afflictions, admonishing them against becoming permanent members thereafter. That robbers and evil doers who have forsaken their former lives join the Brotherhood, does not make it a congregation or assembly of diabolical powers. Had you been humble enough to own up that you are blind, God would have cleared your sight to see clearly. God has always employed the weak to abase the strong. That explains why He is called Wonderful and Mysterious. When will the world know God? He choses the despised and the cast-offs of society and community to accomplish His design.

There was a time in some churches when their members possessed of power of healing, vision or prophecy were excommunicated from such churches. There is now an awakening to the importance of the Holy Spirit as a vital force in worship that dis-fellowshipped spirited members have now been readmitted. You should realise that God can use any vessel to serve His purpose. It is your duty to obey implicitly the directive of the Spirit. If you are requested to receive prayers from a child, then you simply should obey. It is the law of God that a physician cannot heal himself. Do not look down on anybody. You scoff at visions or prophecies given by fornicators, and are intolerant of the sick and children. This ought not be. Unless we are prepared to accommodate and make allowance for all sorts and condition of men our eyes cannot be opened to the glory of God. God's ways are at variance with ours. He uses the lowly to confound the lofty.

It is said that one stroke of the cane is sufficient for the wise. He who has ears should hear, and may the Lord bless His Words, Amen.

CHAPTER 7

THE SPIRIT INCARNATE

Having received the commission from my Leader to compile into a book all my revelations, I decided to interview pastor Henshaw on his earliest recollection of our Leader and the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. He is one of the earliest members of

the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. He had this to say (in part) - "There came a point in my life when I was very disgruntled, with life. For some unknown reasons but which I had attributed to the work of forces of darkness, my business had dwindled in size and finally petered out. I was reduced to abject penury. I longed to be released from this earthly confines so that I could take my abode, in heavenly bliss.

One night I found myself expressing this yearning to a friend who informed me that there was only one man who had the authority to conduct people to heaven, and that he always made the trip on Fridays. This man promised that he would take me to the particular junction to await the arrival of this other man the following Friday. **You know what dreams are, within a few seconds, it was Friday and this guide came for me.** He advised me to take no possession with me. Together we journeyed as fast as we could to get to this junction in time. Soon a man appeared at a distance and walked down towards the junction. My guide introduced him as the man who only has the authority to take one to heaven. This man questioned me as to my earnest sincerity in opting for life in heaven. Being convinced by my answer, both of us proceeded on our journey. I bade farewell to my guide.

This man whom I shall now identify as Mr. Y (this is mine to make for clarity) was clad in white canvass shoes, a helmet on his head and wearing white shirt and a pair of white shorts. He was slight in stature. The road ahead of us was straight and ran between mountains on either side. There were other travellers on this road at differing stages of advancement. But I observed from time to time they detoured and would take to some mountain paths in a bid to arrive to their destination - heaven in a shorter time. Sooner or later they would retrace their steps to the main road and by so doing lose what ground they would have covered. Gradually Mr. Y and I overtook all of them. He explained that those others were trying vainly to get to heaven by devious means. There was only one way, the main road. He commended me for taking nothing along with me on the journey for any possession would have been an encumbrance, he himself carried only his bible."

"Some days later a well-wisher introduced me to Mr. Okon Ikpeme who promised to help re-establish me in business. We set out by canoe for Ubenekang, from here Ikpeme was to journey alone to the Cameroons for two days leaving me behind with his family at Ubenekang. I was consumed with misery and anxiety for my family whom I had left behind in Calabar without a penny for sustenance. So dejected was I that I refused any offer of meal by Ikpeme in the canoe. Vainly he pleaded, cajoled to prevail on me to eat. He said he understood my plight and the cause of my anguish and assured me that his former condition was very much worse than mine in comparison. He proceeded to narrate in what desperate and deplorable straits he had found himself. How he was salvaged by one Biakpan man called Brother Obu. He only spoke and things started happening immediately for him.

I was so caught by his experience that I pleaded that we cut the journey then and there and canoe back to Calabar. Mr. Ikpeme refused but promised to introduce me to Brother Obu on our return. I disembarked as previously arranged at Obenekang while Ikpeme proceeded to Cameroons. That night I dreamt that I was told in no uncertain