

FROM SHORTAGE TO SURPLUS

[Part 2]

By Pastor Charles Omofoma



IN THE PRECEDING PART OF THIS ARTICLE, WE FOUND OUT THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE FREE FROM SHORTAGE AND TO LIVE IN SURPLUS. FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, FIRSTLY, YOU HAVE TO QUIT CONSIDERING YOUR PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS. ADDITIONALLY, YOU HAVE TO MAKE DEMANDS ON YOUR FAITH. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL TOUCH ON TWO MORE PRINCIPLES. WHEN YOU TAKE THESE TRUTHS AND LIVE BY THEM YOU WILL MOVE FROM THE REALM OF SHORTAGE TO THE REALM OF SURPLUS.

Understand the Principle of First Things First

Matthew 6:33 says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..."* Thank God it didn't

stop there. The verse goes on to say, *"...and all these things shall be added unto you."* Yours is to seek first the kingdom of God because you can't practice God's principles in God's way and lose.

The Bible says to *"honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase"* [Proverbs 3:9]. The reason why some par-

ents wonder why their children are not changing is because they tell them to do what they say and not what they do. That doesn't work. What I see from the Word of God is that Jesus began to do and to teach [Acts 1:2]. That is the principle I practice.

If you give me money, when I want to give my tithe and offering, I select the clean notes. You may say it's still the same, after all if you are giving 200 naira it's the same 200 naira. No! I believe in the principle of honouring the Lord with my substance and the first fruit of all my increase. Your daily habits are the things that will determine what you will become in future. Once you form them, they become so easy.

I grew up in the northern part of the country, and the Muslims do their first prayer by 5 o'clock in the morning. Out of zeal, I said to myself that no Muslim would wake up before I started praying. So I would wake up by 4 o'clock. Before any Muslim woke up, I would have prayed for an hour. It got to a point in my life that no matter how late I slept I would wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning. Later on, I had to train myself out

of that. That's the power of habit. Experts have said anything you practice consistently for one month becomes a habit.

2 I am the Lord thy God, Which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the kouse of bondage.

3 Thou shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20: 2-3 [KJV]

For some people clothes are their gods. By all means look good but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you. Let me touch a sensitive one. Some of you idolize your children. Take care of your children, if the best University is in the sky and you can take them there, by all means do so. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Jesus Himself said, *"There is no man that bath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life"* [Mark 10:29-30].

Jesus has the best reward system. God has a sense of profit. He's the one who teaches you to profit [Isaiah 48:17]. One interpretation of that means that He's the one who holds you up. He said His hands are stretched out and no one can turn it back [Isaiah 14:27]. So if His hands cannot be turned back and He's holding you up, then you will remain up. If a man promotes you when he doesn't like your face any more, he will drop you. But God is not like that.

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah

1 Kings 17:8-16 [KJV]

God's Order is: God first; your family, and then your work.

25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

Genesis 26:25 [KJV]

God's order is: God first; your family; and then your work.

2 That thou shall take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shall bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shall put it in a basket, and shall go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

10 And now, behold I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, oh LORD hast given me. And thou shall set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God.

12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the thites of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levites, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.

Deuteronomy 26:2,10,12 [KJV]

Tithe the first things first. Do that before you do every other thing.

When Elijah said to the woman, "...*Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son,*" he was trying to make the woman practice God's order of first things first [1 Kings 17:13]. Elijah as the servant of God stood as God's representative. Elijah told her to put him first. If what Elijah did happened today, the next day you would read in the headlines: "Prophet of God denies Widow of her Last Meal!" Here's another one: "Modern Day Prosperity Preachers on Rampage." But there are

preachers that are poachers; there are preachers who are taking advantage of the people.

Some years ago somebody met a member of the Church I pastor and asked "What Church do you go to?" He told him such and such a Church. He then asked, "Who is your Pastor?" He said "Pastor Charles." He said he knew me on Campus. When that person told him we were doing well as a Church, his next question was, "So what kind of car does Pastor Charles drive now?" At that time I had no car yet and it didn't bother me. The first money that was collected to get me a car, God told me not to touch it, but to put it back into the ministry. And I did. When my car came it came in a grand style, everything was complete. One day, I went to preach, do the work of the gospel- by the time I came back, a car was parked in my garage.

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1 kings 17:9, 13-15[KJV]

Believe Your Prophets

The Bible says, we are to believe in the Lord God, and we will be established. God is still first. But then you are also to believe His prophets, so that you may prosper

[2 Chronicles 20:20]. The time to act on God's Word is when you hear it. That is one way to believe your prophets. By prophets I'm talking about your pastors and preachers. Why do you think God gave the five-fold ministry gifts? Because He wants you to prosper: believe them and you will prosper. The thing to look out for in every man of God is integrity. If you have such a person, then listen to him and prosper.

God had commanded the woman to give Elijah, but it took the ministry of the man of God for her to get to the position where she was able to overcome her fears and do what God asked her to do. For some, it might not be fear, it might be unbelief or offence. Remove all these things so you can experience all that God has in store for you.

I'm here to give you enough courage and audacity to take the step that you need to take to do what God has told you and you will prosper in it; you will walk away from shortage into the realm of surplus!

You can walk away from shortage to the realm of surplus.



The time to act on God's Word is when you hear it!