

THE TRIALS OF A CHRISTIAN

14-0112

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THE BRIDE'S VOICE

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My text is Hymn 32, that's my text can we open it.

*Hums hymn tune.

HYMN NUMBER: 32;

"By And By, When The Morning Comes ".

We are often tossed and driven on the
restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempest oft
succeed a bright sunshine,
In that land of perfect day, When the mists
have rolled away,
We'll understand it better by and by.

Chorus:

***By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered
home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome,
We will understand it better by and by.***

We are often destitute of the things that life
demands,
Wants of food and wants of shelter, thirsty hills
and barren lands,
But we're trusting in the Lord, and according
to His word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot
understand,
All the ways that God will lead us to that
blessed Promised Land,
But He'll guide us with His eye, and we'll follow
till we die,
We will understand it better by and by.

Temptations, hidden snares often take us
unawares,
and our hearts are made to bleed, for many a
thoughtless word or deed,
and we wonder why the test, when we try to
do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by.

¹ And we shall be looking this morning, by way of encouragement to somebody, the trials of a Christian. Christians face trials, face temptations, and face difficulties. And sometimes it looks as if God has forsaken us, you mean God is there and... you know, I say this from so many text messages I have received,” Pastor, please confirm to me, does God really exist? If He exists then why is He not hearing me, why is He not answering me, why is He allowing me to go through what I am going through?” *The people wey dey send me those text them dey here now o, they are here.* Almost every day, I will see something like that. And it looks as if God has forsaken you. Amen.

² That’s what the songwriter is trying to bring out here, where we just sang. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord. He says,

³ He said:

“Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand,
All the ways that God will lead us to that
blessed Promised Land.”

Hallelujah

⁴ He said:

“temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares

And our hearts are made to bleed, for many
thoughtless words and deeds,
And we wonder why the test, when we try to
do our best,”

⁵ The second stanza says:

We are often destitute of the things that life
demands,
Wants of food, wants of shelter, thirsty hills
and barren lands,”

Hallelujah

⁶ Confusion everywhere, unbelievers are prospering, supposedly. And you that decided to live a life pleasing before God, to forsake all worldliness and all riotous lifestyle, see things sometimes look so difficult. The more you fast, the harder it becomes, and yet you search yourself, you know it is not because of any sin you have committed. Amen. *If it is prayer, nobody dey pray reach you. If na church, everyday na you dey open church, na you dey sweep church, na you be the last to go.* You say you won’t even lie, you won’t do any *corner-corner*. And it is expected that since you decided to live that type of life, things should be smooth for you. Then where is this God we are serving? Romans chapter 8. We are going to read it together. Are we there? Romans chapter 8. When God leads us to give such exhortation, there’s somebody He wants to comfort. There’s somebody He wants to visit. Romans chapter 8, we are going to read together

verse 28. If you are there, Romans chapter 8 and verse 28. Are we there? If you are there, shall we read? Let's go:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love

God, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose.” Hallelujah

⁷ This ‘we’ are believers, those who have decided to forsake the world and follow Jesus. Those who have crucified themselves with Christ. Those who are heaven-bound. Those who truly believe that this world is not our home. Those who truly believe that when Jesus comes, He will take us home. Those who truly believe that God is preparing us for home-going. We know, that all things work together for good. There are key words there that we want to look at. All things is all, not some, all is all.

⁸ Somebody say all. Say not some. All is all, no matter how horrible the situation is, it is included. All things work together for good. It says it is working together for good. For good, for good. *“You mean since day before yesterday, I never get food chop, hungry dey wire me, you say e work together for good?”*

⁹ If you believe this Bible, can I see your hand up? You believe? Praise God. I am not the one saying it o, it is the Bible, its Bible. It says; all things, all, All is All. All things work together for Good. *“You mean I’ve served God honestly, sincerely all these years my husband married me as a virgin and I have remained true to God. Hallelujah, and now with four children, four children, my husband now is dead leaving me, no work, how will I take care of these four children? My husband died and the Bible is saying all things work together for good, all things including the death of my husband? It means I am worshipping God in vain.”* It says, all things work together for good.

¹⁰ Now watch it, the emphasis in that verse, he adds, to them that love God. So, what I’m talking today, I’m talking to people who love God. You must first and foremost love God. Apostle Paul says, *“Who will separate me from the Love of God? What can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus?”* Those who love God. How many love God here? From your heart you love Him, from your heart. I’m talking to those of you who love Him, *now now*, I will face those who don’t love Him later. Because that scripture is in 2 groups. He said, to them who love God. It is your love for God that makes you keep His commandments. And because you love God so much. Catch this thing I want to just drop because you may go deeper in understanding than even the way I am presenting it. Because I know what I’m speaking is scriptural. Heaven will use it and work in somebody’s heart and give you faith today to push ahead in the midst of any adversary in the name of Jesus. (Congregation says “amen”) Hallelujah.

¹¹ You just imagine a Christian because that songwriter says, we can’t even understand all the ways that God will lead us to that blessed Promised Land. We don’t know, but we sing another song that says, *“God will make a way where there is no way”*. He does, He knows the way through the wilderness. He does, all we have to do is follow, just follow Him, Hallelujah. There is another song we sing; *“On the mountain, in the valley, on the land and in the sea.”* Hallelujah. These four places are all situations of life. Today everything is doing fine, cool breeze you’re enjoying life that is on top of the mountain. In the valley, that is when everything you have *pata-pata* you now crash, from duplex to one room apartment, that is the valley. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.

¹² But he says in all this, he says, the Lord is my portion in the land of the living forever more, whether it is in the valley o, on top of the mountain o, on the land o, in the sea o, wherever I find myself, he says the Lord is my portion. Those songs are written under inspiration, people who know God. I told you the story of the man that wrote the song, “it is well, it is well with my soul”. Hallelujah, Praise the Lord. You know what brought about that song? All his children, the only children he has all perished in the sea.

¹³ And one day he was travelling, he reached that point. All that he had in life perished. He reached that point where he should have been crying, like some people will go to their mother’s graveyard their father’s grave and be crying every year, “*Papa, if say you dey alive, I for no dey suffer wetin I dey suffer now o*”. Amen. Instead, when he got there, instead of him to be cursing all the mammy water, cursing all the whatever, He say he began to hear that song. Hallelujah, how does that song go? He say, he say, (Pastor Moses sings) “when peace like a river attended my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

¹⁴ See where they killed all your children you are saying, it is well, it is well. It is well. It will take the Holy Ghost to speak like that. It will take revelation to confess like that. But some of us just love the song, “it is well, it is well” and you sing it is well, only when they have paid you the contract. Praise the Lord, but let me tell you something, that you can come to a stage where you are so faithful with your finance. Listen oh, because that song says, (Pastor Moses sings) “He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me”, you pay your tithe regularly, you pay your vows regularly. You help everybody, and God is seeing it saying “no, this my child, he’s been too faithful, I should make him a director of his company, he should not be working and earning salary, but he loves that job so much, as long as remains there he will not be a director” and He can just come one day and make your boss to sack you. Is it possible?

¹⁵ So many of us have faced that situation before and we can’t understand. “*Ah han, I paid my tithe last Sunday, on Monday I go, I went to work, they sack me, which kain thing be this I no go dey pay my tithe for Bride Assembly again.*” It’s because you don’t know how God works, that’s why He say in all circumstances, do what? Just give thanks, just give thanks. And always watch, because he says, “all things work together for good.” Watch within that period, you will soon jam somebody, something will soon come your way that you will now understand, no wonder, no wonder they sacked me. Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord.

¹⁶ Because I remember a sister, very sincere, she’s so old now, no husband and she got a job in a university, she was here in this church looking for a job, I was praying for her to get that job and when she got the job, when she was going for the interview, she came, this is a sister with a Masters’ degree, about 2 Masters’ degrees, no job, no husband. Feeling very frustrated, yet she loves God, I had a burden for her, I was praying for her. She went for the interview, she came, she got the job and she was too honest for the authority of the school.

¹⁷ She was too honest and something happened and the chancellor of the university had to tell her to leave. She said she faced him and said, “my conscience is clear, I never cheated, I never collected bribe from the students, I never, I never, I never, I never did anything wrong, my conscience is clear. I served this institution to the best of my knowledge as a Christian. She said, if you say I should go, it means God has finished with me here”. But unknown to her, it was God arranging something for her, she must marry, but if she remained there she no go marry, so God had to send her away. Now she went to Abuja to look for job.

¹⁸ When she landed there *na him one man see am, him head dey craze, him head dey craze*. I was in Abuja 2 weeks ago or so, and then herself with the man came to see me. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord. I spoke with the two of them. So you see why she lost that job. But how would you have known that that is what God wanted to achieve?

¹⁹ So many of us here, the problem that face us is the compound that we live – occultic compound. Some quit notices that you receive, *na God dey send them come give you o!* So that you will be blessed. There are houses that people never prosper when they are there and yet you love God so much. God wants to bless you and you don't know that quit notice is promotion. Then you are here fasting, you are dry fasting, "I cancel it, I cancel it, in the name of Jesus, I will not pack out" meanwhile you are not prospering o because you feel you don't have money for anywhere else, "where will I get another money to get another place" since you don't have money, that is what that spirit is supposed to do to keep you poor. So, some quit notices, blessed be the name of the Lord, they are meant for your promotion, it is for your blessing. That is why, learn to thank God. If it is not God as you begin to thank Him, the next day the landlord will say, "ok, I change my mind" but if it is God, if you like do dry fasting, the more you do dry fasting, the hotter the landlord comes on you.

²⁰ Do you know also, Amen, as a sister – predestinated, whose name is written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world – God's Elect, the Bride, something wants to disturb your eternal destination called marriage. One useless man *wey* marry you - want to disturb your eternal destination do you know, so that you will make it to heaven, God can take that man's life away? Or, he can just one day you will just see him stand up and say, *I no marry again I dey go*. It happens brethren and you may not know that it is God. Blessed be the name of the Lord. And single sister too, you are saying, "*ah, this one wey I get now, ah, this one wey I get now, the thing wan shake again, the thing wan break again, na lie o*" then you are challenging God, "God, I always pay my tithe, God, I don't owe you anything, God I swore, since the day I gave my life to Christ, that no man will see my pant and I have kept to it, now o now o, this man I like am, this one I like am o, I like am o, I like his height, I like his height. The man tall, him nose point, his hair, I like am o, his teeth, I like am o God." But God knows that that man is a serpent seed. No matter where you cry reach the thing will not work.

²¹ And how you will know it is the way the relationship will break. The man will break the relationship without recourse to how you will feel. He won't even do it with style with style. You are sitting down there, *small time you are still waiting which day we dey go for engagement now*, he will now come and kiss you, *no worry now the time dey come*. The next thing you hear say "see his wedding card is on, he is wedding *so so* date" you know a normal human being cannot do that. That man didn't love you. God took him away from you. Blessed be the name of the Lord. To those who love God.

²² You want to travel overseas without visa, God has a program for you. If he has not finished with you, you will never travel out. So anytime you go for visa, they refuse, just say, "it means it is not time, if it is my time, *the man wey dey give the visa, he no go know the time wey he give me multiple*" He will not know, some people happen like that, but why is your own rejected? To them who love God. Blessed be the name of the Lord. It's true now.

²³ Sometimes you are rushing to the airport or you are rushing to the motor-park to catch a vehicle. *See the last seat now you dey beg, the man them dey make yanga for you, you dey beg, they make yanga for you*. And you want to rush because you must catch this bus, there is

something you want to catch and all of a sudden somebody else will come and go and sit down there.

²⁴ They will collect his money and he sits down on that seat and you will start to curse the conductor. You will start to curse the driver, “ehn, my God will show you, this one and unknown to you, that motor is destined for something else. Then you enter the next motor, several times it has happened to so many of us, you are passing on the road and say, “*no be this motor wey I for enter be this?*” *e don crash there, people are bleeding and some people are dead, na that time you go say, “eyyy! God love me o!”* but you didn’t know God loved you when He prevented you from entering the motor.

²⁵ You don’t wait until you see the result, all things work together for good to them who love God, then the next statement says, ”and to them who are the called according to God’s purpose” somebody shout, God’s purpose. Every one of us, God has a reason for calling you. There is a purpose of God in your life and because I am sure that there is God’s purpose in my life, I am sure, no evil will come my way, nothing will take my life until God has finished with me. That one I am sure. I am certainly sure. If I die today it means God, God’s purpose has been achieved. That’s why I can’t be afraid of death.

²⁶ God’s purpose, brethren what is God’s purpose in your life? There is something God does, which I have shared with you several times here. Through those dreams, through prophecies you see your end. You see yourself going to America – you’re an importer. You see yourself commissioner, governor. You see yourself - There is a brother, there’s a brother here that we were praying for and one of the prophets told him say, “ah, I see you as Governor of Imo State”, the brother laughed, the brother laughed, Hallelujah, Praise the lord, but I was discussing with him about three weeks ago, and he said, “that see me see trouble o, that he went to visit a Governor and when he went to the Governor’s house, the Governor was sitting on those their special seats then he told him, he went with a group of people to see him, he said, the man said, come and sit with me, he was saying no sir, your excellency I’ll sit here, he said come and sit with me, you don’t know you’re a future Governor” he said then, he remembered *wetin* they tell am for Bride, then he say ah. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

²⁷ And now he was telling me again how that they we told him to prepare that the next election, some people came to meet him that they want to field him for the governorship of Imo State. Now, now, now that is the end, but God has not showed him what he will pass through before he go reach that level. That’s what I want to bring out.

²⁸ God doesn’t show you what he will pass through before you will reach that level. Hallelujah. Then we remember the story of Joseph, at least that is a good story for us. Joseph had a dream that he will be a king one day. That is all God showed him. He showed his papa, his mama, his brothers, everybody coming to bow before him as a king and I can see how Joseph will be, “*whether una like, every dream wey I see, any revelation I see, e dey come to pass*”.

²⁹ So that is why his brothers became jealous, but God did not show Joseph how his brothers will sell him, how he will be sold like a slave, how he will go and be boy-boy for Egypt and how false allegations by Potiphar’s wife will finally send him to jail. At least at that stage, Joseph will forget his dream now? Ehn? If it is you, you will have said, “This is the only dream that didn’t come to pass. How can a prisoner now become king?” He didn’t know where he was going to be king. He didn’t know whether it was in Canaan land there with his people or anywhere else.

³⁰ Of course, the last thing that will occur to him is that he will be a king in Egypt. That is what I'm trying to tell you, "all things work together for good" including that hatred that his relations hated him, it was working out for his good, because through that hatred, they pushed him closer to his destiny, am I correct?

³¹ If they didn't hate him, he will remain there. He will remain there. He needed to be hated and be rejected. He was sent, Hallelujah, sold away, so that the dream will be finished. Any time the enemy is doing anything against you, because they have seen you with a bright star. Because they have seen something and they want to frustrate you, and they try to do one thing or the other, unknown to them, they are only helping to push you to your destiny.

³² Oh blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah. And it can be through any means. It can be through any means. Any means. A brother in this church, I saw him today here, in his office, his immediate boss in his department just hated him. It is possible that the woman saw something in the spirit concerning him and was misrepresenting him to the top, was misrepresenting him to the top, but at the top there, they know that he's a hardworking man. Why is this woman always complaining and things like that, so when opportunity came for them to open another branch in another town, now who will then go? It was then the boss then said, "And since this woman doesn't like this man let me separate them", so he now took this one to go and be a boss, Oga higher level than this the partner.

³³ So you thought you are gossiping him? You thought you want to injure him? That you were only calling the attention of the person that will promote him. Therefore, give thanks for those who hate you. Give thanks for your persecutors. Give thanks for those who put obstacles on your way because all things work together for good to them that love God.

³⁴ Blessed be the name of the Lord. Because God, again, before He will actually use you. Any true child of God that God wants to use in any area, before He places you there, He will train you first. And those training is not going to Mafoluku Grammar School o, its experiences of life.

³⁵ Oh blessed be the name of the Lord. Sometimes it could just be as simple as this that so many of us, maybe God wants to use you to preach this End-Time Message that we preach today, maybe. What God will do is to send you from church to church, from church to church. You don't know why you left Deeper Life and went to Redeem. You were there, you studied all the systems in Deeper Life, you knew everything, you studied all the systems in Catholic, you knew everything. You even went to their convent, you went to their theology or whatever it is – seminary, you went to Bible school, you went everywhere, you worked with the G.O., you worked with the whatever you call them – Bishop.

³⁶ You moved from there and went to Mountain of Fire, you moved from there go here, you move from here go here. Each time anytime you leave, *na* trouble o. One allegation or the other will send you away. You are wondering why and the whole reason is because God is going to use you to bring out His children from the denominational system. You have to know how they operate. So that when you see the one from Deeper Life, you go know how to talk to am, the one from Catholic, you will know how to talk to him.

³⁷ That is what happened to Apostle Paul. Paul was a Pharisee, he boasted, "a Pharisee of the Pharisees." He boasted, he learned from the most prestigious school owned by Gamaliel. He boasted, Praise the Lord. But he said, all that, with all that, it only gave him boldness to

understand the difference between “law” and “grace”, that’s why he was the chief apostle of grace.

³⁸ So, all the trouble that he went through was because of that ministry. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Is it not so that Moses was trained in the house of pharaoh? Moses was born to deliver Israel from Pharaoh’s hand; the person that he was going to destroy was the person that raised him up. That is God’s own way of doing His things. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord.

³⁹ Anybody that God will use mightily in the area of deliverance, most of them before they get converted, they get involved in occultism. They themselves they are possessed. It’s either possessed of mammy water, possessed of witchcraft or receive one serious crown in the occultic kingdom or one secret society they belong, one cult or the other. So, they study, they know all, – how they operate. Then God will bring you out. Amen. Oh! Blessed be the name of the Lord. So, when he sees your case, he knows how to deliver you. He knows what to do.

⁴⁰ That’s why you see these our ministers who go on *aladeliju*, some of them you don’t know their background before. Praise the Lord. Ok let me not call some names so that you won’t be afraid. You’ll say, “Maybe the man still get the occultic power.

⁴¹ Even when God wants to you in a healing gift. Most of those that God uses in healing gift, one serious sickness, Hallelujah, one serious sickness. Kenneth Hagin suffered that thing, I think its Kenneth Hagin. Hallelujah. So many more, sicknesses, that nothing could cure it, nothing could cure it. Then the power of God will come and cure it, When he is healed, then God will tell him, “God heal my people” now he understands. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

⁴² Even anybody that will be a marriage counsellor, you will have trouble in your marriage. You don’t know why you are having trouble in marriage, you try by all means to live a life pleasing before this man, you try your best. You live like this, the man, the man, the man never gets satisfied, very useless man but you’ve tried everything. When God finally settles you, there is a reason why He allowed you go through that, according to His purpose. He has purposed to use you to bring comfort to people that will have marriage problems, man or woman. He does it brethren.

⁴³ I have so many examples I can give, but I don’t want some people to stand up and walk out because I say very short exhortation. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! And this thing is not whether you have a choice in it - You have no choice.

⁴⁴ Because the Bible describes God as the potter, we as what? The clay! That is the word, the meaning of “sovereignty” Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 9 says, “Who are you to answer your God” who are you to question Him. You are a mere clay. He can break you and mold you to another thing.

⁴⁵ That’s why it is foolishness to challenge God. Say, “why did you make me short, you for make me light in complexion like *oyibo*” it’s true now. And many people foolishly challenge God like that. When you see a black woman bleaching her skin, what is she doing? She’s challenging God, “Why did you make black - God” Hallelujah. when you see a woman going to pour chemical on her head, to make her hair look like *oyibo*, she’s challenging God, “why, God, why did you not make my hair to look like a soaked rat?” it’s true. *You see rat wey commot from sewage? Ehn? wey water touch the body?* That’s how – when they come out of salon. And it’s a

spirit of – I don't know. It's you challenging God. The natural way He put you is not good. You have better wisdom of creation than God.

⁴⁶ Yet He made you like that to fulfil a certain purpose of His in your life. Amen. Who no want to be *oyibo*? *Dey enjoy wetin them dey enjoy*. But God has made us to come under Ham. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

⁴⁷ When you see a woman wear high-heel shoe to increase her height. You know what she's saying. You know now? She's challenging God – why did you make me short? By force, I must be tall. You go and meet carpenter. Carpenter will increase the height. *Then you see am waka dey go*. You are challenging your Maker, you are challenging your Maker. When women of the world go and put hole in their ear. God did not finish creating you. He forgot to put hole there. So, you're telling God, "*Ooh, you no know say I be woman? God – make you correct wetin God don do, put hole there.*"

⁴⁸ Now you see it will sound so funny, but the Bible describes Him as a sovereign God. Sovereign. Sovereign – you can't challenge Him! He is who He is. He does not take counsel with anybody. The Bible says, "He counsels with Himself" whatever He wants to do, He doesn't go and say, "let us reason with you now" He counsels with Himself. Oh! Blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Hallelujah!

⁴⁹ So many other things according to His purpose. According to His purpose. And various purposes, do you know the only reason why He allowed Satan and that one is a very dangerous one. I always say God, "no let me go through that way - what Job went through."

⁵⁰ Job was a very sincere, look at his testimony and God knew who he is. God wanted to prove to Satan that's all o. He wanted to prove to Satan that there are some people that are not serving Me because of what they will get from Me. There are some people that are serving Me, not because of the wealth they have, because Satan was telling God, "Ehn with all of the blessings You bless him, if anybody get that *kain* blessing how he no go worship You" he said, "Permit me now, make I go strike that thing, see whether he no go curse you" and God knew that under any situation Job will not curse Him.

⁵¹ How many of us can God give that type of testimony? How many of us? How many? How many? Be very sincere with yourself. And Satan was asked to go. Job didn't know what was going on between God and Satan o. *He sit down him thing jeje, one day, everything wipe off*. They finish self, God only told him, "only don't touch his life" that is don't kill him. "You can do anything you want" He threw evil sickness in his body until like leprosy – crawl-crawl all over his body *sotay* his wife, wanting him to go and rest say, "curse God and die instead of all this suffering"

⁵² Somebody who was as sincere as that, his friends came to him to say, Job, we know it is because of your secret sin", and Job boasted, "I have no secret sin, I have made a covenant with my eye, that I will never behold any maid – fornication is out of the way, lying is out of the way, gossip is out of the way. As you see me so, I don't owe God anything. I have lived my life pleasing before Him, openly and in secret" Therefore, he called them, "miserable comforters" Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

⁵³ God can do the same thing to any sister here and delay your marriage, to prove that there are some people that husband or no husband, they will serve me and He can choose you to prove it,

for His purpose. He can choose you to prove it. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

⁵⁴ He uses it to demonstrate His principles. Do you know why God folded His hands and the first Church Age, they were persecuting His children? They were killing them, killing them, killing them, killing them. It's the same reason why He folded His hands and allowed Jesus Christ, a sinless Man to be persecuted, to be humiliated and killed with that shameful death. It's the same reason. What is the reason? There is a law of God that says, "Except a corn of wheat fall to the ground and die it abides alone" it's the law of the planting and the growth of a seed.

⁵⁵ The law of harvest – what you put in there will die first, then it will spring up life, then more of that seed will be produced. Jesus Christ was the only Son of God. Oh, blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord.

⁵⁶ If He didn't die, Jesus would have been alone on earth, the only Son of God. But He had to die so that more 'Jesuses', more 'Jesuses', more 'Jesuses'. Here we are, here we are. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord.

⁵⁷ The first Church Age they had to die, after they killed them, there was the Dark Ages, when the Church looks like it was totally dead but suddenly, they began to spring up through Luther, 'bursting' forth again through John Wesley, 'bursting' forth again through the Pentecost – the Azusa Street Revival. Bursting forth now again to produce more children of God than the first Church Age ever had. They had to die to produce more. It's a law of God.

⁵⁸ And secondly, God also used it to tell Satan that, "no matter how you kill them, the more you kill them, the more... If you harass them with death, they will never submit to you Anti-Christ. Go ahead now and see whether you will use death and they will stop."

⁵⁹ And of course we taught on the Seven Church Ages. We taught on the sealed book. How that during that First Church Age, when Satan discovered that they were not going to give up this Christianity, how he had to change style. Why? The more you kill them, the more they were believing. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord. That is the way God works. All things working together for good. Which explains also why God will fold His hand and allow Apostle Paul to enter the prison.

⁶⁰ Any time I remember, a brother here phoned me one day, Hallelujah, Brother Femi you know him, Deacon Femi and maybe the Brother is in the church today. He said he was owing somebody, Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) and all of a sudden, Policemen. He called me early in the morning and said, "Daddy, police has surrounded my house" I say, "what?" He said, "because of a debt he owes" *he was talking small-small make them no hear him voice, hay him dey inside.*

⁶¹ I called him the phone was off, he was not picking it rather. So, I sent a text to him, I said, "Don't worry, God is about to give you a testimony. If He allows it to happen like that, God is about to give you a testimony." He sent back a reply, a text. He said, "Thank you sir, I believe so too." Later on they said, they picked him and took him to the police station and locked him there to harass him.

⁶² But when he got there, over 200 inmates locked up there at Alagbon. Was it Alagbon? Alagbon or so. Or Panti sorry, Panti. Amen. And when he got in there, miracles began to take

place there. The policemen were now coming to him for prayers. They suddenly saw things happening. The people that are selling outside, they were calling him, “Pastor, pastor, pastor” and this brother left Catholic church straight. This is the first non-Catholic church he has ever entered. He was just here maybe for about two months or so when the thing happened, but here he was and there he understood why God took him there.

⁶³ When he came out of that place he said, “Daddy, I am going back to prison ministry” Hallelujah. I think he has bought a vehicle now. Bought a bus, he’s organizing the group, I think that is why they want to hold a meeting today. He said, from now on, he’s going to the prison ministry that is where his own.

⁶⁴ You see how God wants to call his attention to prison ministry? You see? And, soon after they came and released him. No more talk about five hundred thousand naira (N500,000). Now he’s released.

⁶⁵ Apostle Paul was sent to prison yard. Why? Because Apostle Paul was going up and down, preaching up and down. There will be no record. And he’s supposed to be the Apostle for the Gentiles. How will we know the doctrines? God allowed them to lock him up. So that he can write those letters. All the ones that you see. All this New Testament, twenty something epistles that Apostle Paul wrote, all of them, he wrote them in the prison yard.

⁶⁶ God wanting to reserve that for you and me, to be put in the book like this. He kept him in the prison yard. ***“All things work together for good to them who love God and to them who are the called according to His purpose.”*** What is God’s purpose in your life? Things will happen to fulfil that purpose. That’s what I want you to note.

⁶⁷ What is God’s purpose in your life? I’m talking to genuine children of God because he said, *“...to them who love God”* It is to them who love God. It’s true. And it is God’s own way, when you are about the stage where you want to reach now for your testimony that is when it becomes toughest. The condition will become toughest, more difficult you think you will die. Imagine, the last stage of Joseph’s victory, *wahala* I mean, was now to be thrown inside the jail.

⁶⁸ And please Roman jail is not like American jail. It’s worse than where they keep animals because it’s meant for criminals, at that time no human rights. So, they kept them there and forgot him there but my Bible told me, Hallelujah, it was from prison – the worst dungeon, from there to where? To the palace. Oh, blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord! Hallelujah.

⁶⁹ The situation you are going through, why is it getting tougher now? It’s because you are at the last step, you are at the last stage of it. I don’t know who will believe what I’m saying now. Amen. The situation is getting tougher, tougher now it’s because you are in the last stage.

⁷⁰ All these years you graduated for the past 5 years no job, you have been eating, eating, eating, now where you are managing before, the man is now saying, *“abeg, abeg, abeg e don do o, I don try, I don try for you”* you are saying, “ah, where will I go?” he say, *“abeg, abeg, abeg dey go dey go dey go”* (Pastor Moses sings) *“where will I go, where will I go? Seeking a refuge for my soul, needing a friend to help me in the end, oh, where will I go but to the Lord”*.

⁷¹ Any time they do that, any time it gets to that stage. I am telling you, this is thus saith the Lord, you are at the point of your testimony. That's why the songwriter says, (Pastor Moses sings) "*we will understand it better by and by.*"

⁷² You will understand it better. Hallelujah. Because the action of pushing you to that level normally pushes you to do an unusual thing. In the course of doing that thing, you will jam the testimony. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord! It's true now.

⁷³ And when it is time for you to be delivered, there are some people that don't pray. When God wants to come upon you to deliver you, God cannot move except you pray. I hope you know that. You have to pray for God to move in your life.

⁷⁴ Israel was comfortable in Egypt. And God now it was time, according to the time allotted to them for Him to come and deliver them, what did He do? He made the Egyptians to make their tasks tougher.

⁷⁵ Things became more difficult, they say a Pharaoh that knew not Joseph now mounted the throne and descended on them. It was then they started crying, it was then they were reminded that they were strangers, it was then they started remembering that they have a promised home somewhere. It was then they started crying and calling upon their God. And God came to the deliverer Moses, "I have heard the cry of my children, I have now come to deliver them."

⁷⁶ God can do it even on the individual, when you are relaxed in that place and God does not want you to be there, its time. He will make the situation tough for you. It is then you will start to fast, it is then you will start to pray. Then, He comes down. That is how God works, it's true.

⁷⁷ Even this ministry *nko*? Were we not in Mafoluku? We were enjoying ourselves in Anthony Obe Street. No hope to move anywhere because we didn't have money we didn't have hope. *No be person wey get money dey plan to move?* We didn't have money so there was no way, we were there all of a sudden, for no reason, Landlord say, "*make una leave this place*", why now? "*we no want, make una leave this place*", you're not using the place, it's just plain ground, it's a forgotten place, *na we go make am know say that place can be used sef*. We saw a plain land that the man is not using, we say make we rent this land now.

⁷⁸ Of course, we took over that place and took over... he said, "no," he said, "everybody is complaining now you people should go" and he was already taking us to court. And he had already gone to OPC. He had already gone and even paid bulldozers they were coming. Somebody who was there when they were planning it, ran to come and tell us. He say, "heh? *See wetin them dey plan o, I just enter the man office*" he say, he even saw when he paid the money, the next how many days or so they were coming with bulldozer, they wanted to bulldoze the place. Heh? Church, trouble don come oh. The whole church, that day we fasted. Hallelujah.

⁷⁹ The whole church declared dry fasting. Hallelujah, Hallelujah The whole church declared dry fasting, everybody came to church. We cried to God. Prophecy came, "Thus saith the Lord," there was one tall brother, tall prophet among us that time, I've forgotten his name, *ehen*. He said, "Sir, go back to that man, the man will ask you – when do you want to leave?" ah! We say, we ended the fast.

⁸⁰ The next day the Deacons went. Exactly! The man said, "Ok, when do you people want to leave?" So we gave some months ahead he said, "Okay", we gave six months ahead. The man,

since, we know na prophecy, na prophecy we dey go with. so, we gave him six months, the man look us say, “six months o!” we say, “ehn”, “six months o!” we say, “ehn” say, “oya go ahead” ah!. Like joke – joke six months don pass, nowhere.

⁸¹ It was then we started fasting, “Lord give us a place of worship, Lord give us a place of worship,” we started looking for a place of worship anywhere. Unknown to us, God had His children somewhere that He wanted to bring among us and that place in Mafoluku was too small, was too small. As we began to pray, in a miraculous way, God gave us this place. Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah.

⁸² That’s why those who are fighting us that we moved here they don’t know how we appreciate God for this small place. To us this place is too big for us. And they’re thinking that we want to take over their land, they are buying everywhere. They don’t know we even thank God say we even get place like this.

⁸³ Ah! Let’s clap our hands together for Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. Brother IK is reminding me before we moved to Anthony Obe, before we moved to Anthony Obe, we were using my office – a 3 bedroom flat, and then there are neighbours there, we were disturbing them too much. When we told our members, “*make una bring money let us look for place*” all of them dey stand dey look us.

⁸⁴ One Sunday, our neighbours came and locked the gate. Say, “no going in, no service” *they commot their shirt*, they are ready to fight. *So, everybody stand for main road. So na that time I now went I say, “the thing wey una talk, una try” ah, we really disturb una here. Una try well – well. I say, I call the man name, I say, “Nna, the God wey we dey worship here, na your creator. Na the same God wey make you we dey worship, we are sure there is a reason why He made you to lock this place today”, I say, “we no vex o, we no vex. If you say make we no worship today, make we go home, we go go because no be political party we be.”*

⁸⁵ So, but we know there is a reason. While I was talking there the members outside were saying, this nonsense must stop, this nonsense must stop, this nonsense must stop.”

⁸⁶ So when they opened the gate, around, service was supposed to start 9 o’clock, till after 12 na him them open the gate. *When we went in, those same members wey say them no get money, the next week na him we get that place for Anthony Obe. them bring money, we pay. Na when them see wahala, them bring out money.* So, God wanted to move us out, He caused that man to lock that gate. All things work together for good. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah.

⁸⁷ Now finally, let me drop this thought. That scripture is double – edged. Just as it is all things working together for good to them that love God. Those same things that work together for good to those that love God, those same things also work together for the elimination of those who don’t love God.

⁸⁸ And that is the dicey aspect of it. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord. So that you will understand why a journey that was supposed to last 40 days. How many years did it last? Forty years from Egypt to Canaan Land, the Promised Land. It was supposed to be forty day’s journey, God took them round, round, round. *See where plain land dey wey dem go follow, He say make them follow sea. See bush dey wey them go follow they must pass through another city.* You know some times we say, “*God dey go find trouble*” see where them

go follow. Ehn ehn, they will go and reach the city gate and say “tell the king say make he give us chance make we pass.” Una no fit go and follow another place?

⁸⁹Then fight will start. Then there will be battle, then some people go die. Some people. *Then another time again, he make sure say, he follow where there is no water and all of a sudden wahala came some people fainting, some people who cannot fast, they now started grumbling, “Moses, we sit down our thing jeje for Egypt o, we were enjoying our garlic and cucumber. You say make we come say, God say. Na God say, now God brought us out to suffer us abi? Ehn? Moses you too do o, you too do o.” Ehen, amen.*

⁹⁰And through all they went through because as they were moving, they were a mixed multitude. So God wanted to use the experiences in the wilderness to eliminate some of them. While it was also it was a faith training for the true children of God to know that our God is the mighty One in battle. Therefore, we shall not be afraid of anybody. Hallelujah.

⁹¹They were having faith. People like Joshua and Caleb. People like Phinehas, people like Hur, people like Aaron they were there moving confidently. In fact to them, “when is the next battle” others, Hallelujah, through the same experience, they were falling by the way side. Blessed be the name of the Lord. That was the purpose of the forty year journey. So that only those He has predestined to enter the Promised Land will enter. Others will fall by the way. It’s true!

⁹²This same situation you are going through sister, Amen. Hallelujah. Another sister took the same step of faith with you, *“I no do again, from now no more boyfriend no more nothing. Trouser – I drop am, earring – I drop am, all this yama – yama, I drop am” where you dey go? “Bride! Na bride now” Ok Bride. Small time, money for cream no dey again. Small time, house-rent no dey again. Small time, all your cloth don dey tear go. Ha!*

⁹³And then you will have your former friends that will tell you, *“ah, which kain thing be this, Nkiru? Hey, this God wey you dey serve different from our God? Ah me my own God is a good God o. Me na, my church na oregun e dey, ah, our own we dey, we dey, ah, we, we no dey for all that una own o. Ah, our God is a good God, my God is a beautiful God. Ah, which one be all this one? What’s wrong with having boyfriend?”* And then that serpent is preaching to you and you are saying, *“ah wetin this woman dey talk na true o. Ah han, they said God is a good God. How can I come now and, and...”* before you know what, you no see am again for Bride Assembly. (Pastor Moses laughs) Amen.

⁹⁴All things work together for the elimination of those who don’t love God. Whether it is good or bad, I am looking up to Jesus the Author and Finisher of my faith. Blessed be the name of the Lord! I am looking at the salvation of my soul. ***“what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?”*** I’m excited that I’ve been given Eternal Life. All other thing is secondary. I love God whether I have clothes to wear, money, food to eat or not, nothing will hinder me – disturb my service of God. For such a person, all things work together for good. But for the other person, that same situation will make him go back.

⁹⁵Oh, I was explaining something to some ministers in my office last Sunday. William Branham gave us an example, he said, “these trees that are in the forest, Amen, what is it that sustains their life? Its water under the ground” they get their nourishment from under the ground and to be able to get the nourishment, every true tree has a tap root. Ehn?

⁹⁶ Those of you who did biology, the longest root there, that center one there that goes down. That's the tap root. That is the one that goes and taps water and through it the tree there is nourished. God planted it there. But there are some trees there that do not have tap root but they are there like say them too they are trees. Them too *na* tree. Why will you be a correct tree and not have tap root? You are just there disturbing the real trees. Now, you are all there, the one with the tap root, the water level, dry season has come, the water level has gone down. And there is need for that tree to have life.

⁹⁷ God's own ordained way for that tree to have life, amen, is for that tap root to touch water, but the water level has gone down. The tap root no fit touch water again. What will God do? All of a sudden, God will raise one storm. Sometimes He will just sit down just like that no rain o nothing o. You will just see one type of breeze that will blow *brrrrrrr* like that *brrrrrrrrr* like that. Its God o, its God that wants to save one tree from dying.

⁹⁸ How does He do it? Through that storm, as that storm is beating that tree, beating that tree, beating that tree. *As e dey shake am like that, dey shake like that, the ground under e dey open, e dey open, the tap root dey get small ground, dey shake am like this the thing dey get more space, dey shake am like this the thing dey get more space.* Hallelujah! *Until He shake am, shake am, shake am reach and He's sure the tap root don reach the water level.* Then He will stop. But by the time the storm is over, come and see trees that were uprooted. Every tree that have no tap root. You will see the thing go *commot*. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord!! Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

⁹⁹ Yes, the just shall live by faith. Let me read two scriptures and we close. The first scripture is James Chapter 1, now if you are there see what James said. Amen, James 1:2-3. This is his admonishment to you. Praise the Lord. He said:

²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

¹⁰⁰ The trying of your faith, here, Apostle James is telling us, remember anybody that will work and depend on God, you must have patience. And God can train you to be able to have patience with Him. And one of the way He does is trials. That's why He said – the trial that you go through is to produce patience. Is to produce patience, nothing more. Patience, the trying of your faith, that's why he said, "Count it all joy, when you fall into diverse temptation" And in Romans Chapter 5, Romans Chapter 5, he repeated the same thing. Hallelujah, verse 3 up to verse 5.

Romans 5:3-5:

³"And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh – or produce - patience;

⁴And patience, - will do what? produce? - experience; and experience, - will give you what? - Hope!"

¹⁰¹ Hope! Amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah. (Pastor Moses chuckles). What will make you have hope? Why do you think that Abraham willingly went to sacrifice Isaac when they said he should go and sacrifice Isaac? Because he already has experience, out of nothing, in old age, a man, a

woman that is 100 years old, 90 years old. A man 100 years old, his wife – 90 years old, 90 years old woman born pikin. When they had lost all hope, God miraculously brought that child, Isaac.

¹⁰² Now that same God now came and said, “Go and sacrifice him – the only child you have. So many of us we would have said “that voice is of the devil”, “*this only one child wey I get? Go sacrifice? Holy Ghost Fire!*” But the Bible says, Hallelujah, Amen, He took him and went and he was going to sacrifice him. Why? Because he knew that if this God who did it before, He can do it again now! If He kill this one, it means He go bring another one. That is the hope we talk about. That is what the experience, hallelujah – it has produced hope. It produces patience and patience leads you to have hope. Hope that God will not fail me. Hope that God will not fail me. That is what this sister was talking about. She knows the battle she went through. But she knows how God gave her that child. So confidently she was saying, “*lai, lai*” what was giving her that faith that hope? It’s because she knows how that child came about. But you know what she went through before she got that child too. Blessed be the name of the Lord, hallelujah, yes.

¹⁰³ And first Peter chapter 1, now, it’s an advice, from Peter. Whatever situation you are going through. Hallelujah, whatever situation you are going through. Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah. If I read it, hear his admonishment from verse 3. Hear what he said, he said:

³***“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***

⁴***To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,***

⁵***Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, - it’s for a season - if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: -“***

¹⁰⁴ It’s for a season, it’s not forever. It’s for a season, all these temptations all these trials, it’s for a season, it is not forever. Then he said, verse 7:

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,”

¹⁰⁵ Why is he comparing it with gold? Because anytime you bring raw gold, if you want to get the good quality of gold, what do they use to purify it? Fire! That is what God aims at making you pass through all that *wahala* you’ve been going through. It’s to produce a better you! He said but “when you are going through that, that it: ***“might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”***

¹⁰⁶ That is whatever you are going through, in that temptation let it be that the end of your testimony even as you are going through that trial through that difficulty, the end of it, let it bring glory, honour to the name of the Lord.

¹⁰⁷ Don't disgrace God when you are going through that difficulty. Don't murmur. Don't say anything that will bring reproach to the name of the Lord. Don't act in a way that will bring shame to the gospel. That is what Apostle Peter is saying. And the reason why you shouldn't is first Corinthians Chapter 10. First Corinthians 10. It's a popular verse but just read it for emphasis. Hallelujah. Verse 13. He says:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:”

¹⁰⁸ So, don't think what you're going through anybody has not gone through it. Job went through his own and it was found unto praise. Joseph went through his own, it was found unto praise, Paul went through his own and it was found unto praise. John the beloved, went through his own in the island of Patmos, ended up in Patmos and it was found unto praise. Polycarp, Polycarp – the martyr, Stephen and all the other early Saints went through their own. The testimony they left behind was to the glory of God. Antipas, the rest, there are so many of them. You too, during your own trial let it be unto glory. Verse 13:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; - he won't let that temptation be the one that you can't bear - but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].”

¹⁰⁹ Oh! Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be the name of the Lord. In that temptation, He will make a way of escape, He will cushion it in such a way that you will be able to bear it. You won't die. You won't die. Because He will neither forsake you nor will He leave you.

¹¹⁰ All things work together for good to them who love God. To them who are the called according to His purpose. Therefore, in all circumstances, give thanks, for that is His will concerning you in Christ Jesus. No murmuring, no grumbling, no crying, nothing, your prayer is, Thy will be done oh Lord.

Hymn number 81.

(Pastor Moses sings, and the instrumentalists play the tune)

When the day is dark before you

And the clouds are hanging low

Let's sing it prayerfully now, let's go

Hymn number 81

When the day is dark before you,

THE TRIALS OF A CHRISTIAN

And the clouds are hanging low,

There is One who watches o'er you,

Everywhere that you may go.

Chorus:

Jesus is the One,

He's the only One,

Let Him have His way until the day is done;

When He speaks, you know the clouds will have to go,

Just because He loves you so.

Oh, if you are sad and lonely,

Life is but an empty tomb,

Breathe a prayer to Jesus only,

He will drive away the gloom.

When you come to cross the river,

He will be your Friend and Guide,

You can live with Him forever,

Over on the other side.