

## PERFECTING SONSHIP THROUGH DEATH (2)

By Minister **Sumbo Oladipo** 

2025: OUR YEAR OF FULFILLED DREAMS GENESIS 41:1, GENESIS 42:9

- We must, through many tribulations, enter the kingdom of God. This means we have no choice and no alternative route; it is the only road that leads to the kingdom (Acts 14:22).
- The one who endures tribulations has died to self, to murmuring, and to complaining, and has been passed through the crucible of fire so that the dross is removed and the vessel proven (Proverbs 25:4).
- The disciples departed, rejoicing that they had been counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. That is the posture expected of us (Acts 5:40-42).
- If the Captain of our salvation (Jesus Christ) passed through suffering, we cannot wish the process away. To come to the Father through Christ is to follow the same path He took. Any other way makes us like broken cisterns that hold no water (Hebrews 5:8, John 14:6).

- Only the one who has died in the school of suffering can withstand the devil. Until the flesh is crucified, as Jesus crucified His, you cannot overcome the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 2:16).
- If you grow weary in a place of ease and peace, what will you do when the enemy comes like a flood? Many crumble at the slightest shaking—like a pack of cards—because they have not submitted to the discipline of the Father (Jeremiah 12:5).
- David was enrolled in the school of suffering at a tender age. Rejected in his home and lonely in the wilderness, he found an outlet with the sheep and his harp. He killed the lion and the bear, and by the time Goliath appeared, he had developed strong muscles—spiritually, mentally, and physically (1 Samuel 17:33-37, Psalm 69:8-9).



Discipline must begin early. Parents who shield their children from every discomfort raise adults without the capacity to withstand stress. God allows us to carry burdens early so we are trained for destiny (Lamentations 3:25-27).

- To be fit for the Master's use, we must first go through cleansing (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
- The man God will use is tested and proven—unyielding under pressure, uncompromising, nonconformist, and wholly consumed by God.
- Fruitfulness is proven through pruning, and pruning is painful. Yet beyond submitting to God's pruning, we must also become vinedressers—discipling and mentoring others so they, too, may grow into maturity (John 15:2, Matthew 28:19).
- As we put to death fleshly desires and endure trials without compromise, Christ shines through us—men see our resilience, our light, our

good works, and glorify the Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

- We must subdue selfexaltation so that our boast is in God, not in ourselves.
- A thorn in the flesh keeps us sober. Because knowledge puffs up, Paul was given a thorn to buffet him so that he would not exalt himself. Sometimes, it is Satan who attacks, but oftentimes, it is God proving and refining us, keeping us dependent on Him (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
- There is reward in the school of suffering. God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, and Christ assures us that the reward is both in this life and in the life to come (Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 19:27-29).
- Our goal must be to return with honour—to endure the training, finish our course, keep the faith, and come back as faithful soldiers of Christ.

## **Prayer Points**

1. Lord, strengthen me to endure the only road into Your



kingdom—through many tribulations (Acts 14:22).

- 2. Father, help me to rejoice when I suffer for Your name, as the apostles did *(Acts 5:41)*.
- 3. Lord Jesus, teach me obedience through suffering and help me walk the same path You walked (*Hebrews* 5:8).
- 4. Father, crucify my flesh completely so that sin, lust, and pride find no place in me.
- 5. Lord, prepare me to contend with horses, and may I not stumble in times of flood *(Jeremiah 12:5)*.
- 6. Train me early, Lord, and help me embrace discipline while it is still day (Lamentations 3:27).
- 7. Make me a vessel of honour—tested, proven, uncompromising, and wholly consumed by You (2 Timothy 2:21).
- 8. Lord, prune me that I may bear more fruit, and make me a mentor and one who disciples others (John 15:2).
- 9. Father, let my trials never bring reproach to Your name, but glorify You in me (*Psalm* 69:6).
- 10. Lord, keep me from

lukewarmness and complacency, and deliver me from the ease of Laodicea (Revelation 3:16-17).

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- 11. Father, let Christ be manifested in my mortal flesh, and may my light shine before men to Your glory (Matthew 5:16).
- 12. Lord, keep me humble in success. Oh God, let every thorn keep me dependent on You (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- 13. Father, help me finish well and return with honour, having kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8).